SUNDAE SCHOOL IN SESSION

East-end ice cream shop is a religious experience

metroNEWS

Ottawa metro

Your essential daily news | THURSDAY, MAY 11, 2017

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WHAT WERE THE ODDS?

A house on Bayview Drive in the Constance Bay neighbourhood of Ottawa is flooded out on Sunday.
ALEX ABDELWAHAB/METRO

Flooding in Constance Bay was far worse than what the city's 100-year floodplain map predicted

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U.S. reacts to FBI director's firing as Trump welcomes Russian foreign minister to White House. **World**

Sandbag removal underway

WEATHER

Mayor says 'the sun is out' but challenges still lay ahead

Haley Ritchie
Metro | Ottawa

Flood updates dominated city council on Wednesday as officials transition from delivering sandbags to removing debris.

"The sun is out and I can confirm that water levels are in fact dropping," said Mayor Jim Watson, noting that despite the good news, things are still difficult and the town hall meetings that took place in affected areas yesterday were "emotional."

"I think the information sessions held yesterday were a good start, but I challenge each and every one of us, including our staff, to do even more. We need to continue to be thoughtful and approachable in our response, instead of bureaucratic," he said.

That need for less red tape and more action was echoed by West Carleton Coun. Eli El-Chantiry.

"Let's not say sun is out, the water's down. Let's keep supporting the community," he said after thanking volunteers. "We did a great job, but I hope we don't think we won this battle. We didn't."

On the contrary, city manager Steve Kanellakos said, the battle has only just begun. On Wednesday afternoon the city's senior staff began a detailed planning session on how to remove debris and best help residents.

Garbage removal will be complicated and badly needed, roads have deteriorated and septic-system failures mean the flooding could turn into a health crisis if people don't pay attention to contaminated water. Watson said he expects cleanup of "public debris" to take at least three to four weeks.

Full assessments will have to wait until water levels go down further, according to Kanellakos.

"We're committing to making sure on-site supports remain in place for as long as they are needed. We are not removing them until we get past this crisis," he said.

Watson said the city plans to apply for the province's Municipal Disaster Recovery Assistance program in order to lessen the financial impact.

"There are some extenuating costs that we have been absorbing, but we haven't been worrying about bookkeeping matters at this point we just want to get in there and get the job done and help people," he said.

The Lighthouse general store and restaurant is surrounded by water and sand bags, caused by flooding, in the community of Constance Bay about 40kms West of Ottawa on the Ottawa River. JENNIFER FRIESEN/FOR METRO

1. Community Hall at the R.J. Kennedy Arena
2. Ron Kolbus Lakeside Centre East Parking Lot
3. Constance and Buckham's Bay Community Centre
4. Fitzroy Harbour Community Centre

INFO SESSIONS

- The city has set up four information centres on Wednesday, which will be open Thursday and Friday from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.
- The info centres are located at the Community Hall at the R.J. Kennedy Arena, the Ron Kolbus Lakeside Centre East Parking Lot, the Constance and Buckham's Bay Community Centre and the Fitzroy Harbour Community Centre.

WEST CARLETON

323

A total of 323 properties have been affected in West Carleton.

137

This has impacted 137 West Carleton families.

CUMBERLAND

21

In all, 21 properties are affected in Cumberland.

18

A total of 18 Cumberland families have been displaced.

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Flooding surpasses predictions

CONSTANCE BAY

Climate change making flood maps difficult to design

Alex Abdelwahab
Metro | Ottawa

The flooded area in Constance Bay surpassed what the city's 100-year floodplain map predicted, even though water levels haven't surpassed the city's predicted maximum flows.

The water level drawn on the map is shown at least 50 metres back from Bayview Drive in Constance Bay, but when I visited the area on Sunday, I observed that water had reached sections of Bayview Drive and houses on both sides were flooded.

John Price, director of water resources engineering at the Mississippi Valley Conservation Authority, which has jurisdiction over the shoreline in Constance Bay, said this is because the actual elevations on the ground may be slightly different from the topographical model used in the calculations to draw the map.

So flood waters in some areas may stretch further than the map shows, even if actual water levels did not reach higher than those predicted when the 100-year flood map was created.

Two houses on the east side of Bayview Drive in Constance Bay are surrounded by flood waters on Sunday. ALEX ABDELWAHAB/METRO

Price said that the water level used in the calculations may be right, but in certain areas, "maybe the topography that you're using to draw that line may be kind of out a little bit so the actual flooded area maybe larger than what your showing" on your map.

"There are some variables in there that could lead to that flood line maybe not being perfectly representative everywhere," he said.

Price said the best information he had was that the flood in Constance Bay resulted from a 50-year water-level high.

This information may change in the coming days, he said, as the conservation authorities in the areas are gathering photos of the flooding, including aerial shots.

"If there's large areas I'll say that are outside of how the flood plain is delineated now that are flooded now, that would potentially result in kind of a direct redrawing of the flood plain line," he said.

Cities use historical data to build flood maps that predict the likelihood a specific area is at risk of flooding.

A one in 100-year flood means there is a one per cent chance that flood risk areas will flood in any given year, according to Paul Beckwith, a climate system scientist and University of Ottawa geography professor.

The frequency of extreme weather events is increasing all around the world, making predictive tools like flood maps more difficult to design, according to Beckwith.

"Those terms are all based on a stable climate. So if the climate is stable you can come up with the probability that an event will happen, an extreme weather event will happen," Beckwith said.

"When the climate is changing rapidly, as it is now, then we start seeing some strange things. You can't really believe those numbers."

Gail Faveri, a manager with Environment and Climate Change Canada and Canadian Secretary for the International Lake Ontario-St. Lawrence Board said Monday's peak on the Ottawa River was the highest ever recorded, since tracking began in 1967, she said.

"It's about twice what the average peak is."

MILITARY

Hundreds of troops sent to Quebec as feds warn about more floods in B.C.

The military is deploying hundreds of additional soldiers to help with flood-relief efforts in Quebec, even as the federal government warns about more flooding in British Columbia.

The extra help to Quebec comes as water levels have started to recede in many parts of the province, where more than 2,700 people were forced from their homes over the past week.

Updating reporters on the federal government's response to the flooding, Defence Minister Harjit Sajjan said 470 army reservists from Ottawa, Toronto and London were expected to be in Quebec by the end of the day.

The reservists were expected to join — and in some cases replace — the approximately 1,800 military personnel already on the ground helping fill sandbags, evacuating residents and providing other help.

Sajjan said the extra soldiers would bring the total number of military personnel on the ground to 2,200 by the end of the day, though officials said that number remains in flux.

A naval frigate is also scheduled to arrive in Montreal on Thursday, Sajjan said, joining dozens of military boats, helicopters, armoured vehicles and engineering equipment already on the scene.

The vessel will serve as a command-and-control centre in the area, one official said, while crew members will provide assistance in Montreal and Trois-Rivieres.

When asked how long the military would stay, Sajjan said it "will always be quick to arrive and slow to leave," adding: "We will only pull out any resources when it's not needed."

Sajjan was joined by Public Safety Minister Ralph Goodale, who is leading federal flood-relief efforts. Goodale warned that while the weather appears to be improving in Quebec, the same can't be said for B.C.

"Rising temperatures, snow melt and thunderstorms are actually expected to worsen the flooding situation over the period immediately ahead," Goodale said.

"We're watching B.C. and the central part of that province very carefully."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

COUNCIL

City approves plan to extend flood victims' tax deadline

Haley Ritchie
Metro | Ottawa

City council approved a motion Wednesday that would allow property owners affected by flood damage to defer some municipal taxes.

The final due date for property tax bills is June 15, but Mayor Jim Watson has suggested giving flood victims until the end of the year to pay their property taxes.

"It's a modest measure, but I know from dealing with residents affected by the flood that every little bit helps," he said on Wednesday.

Council voted to direct the city treasurer to begin identifying flooded properties, most in West Carleton, Cumberland and Bay Ward. The treasurer will report back to councillors within 30 days with a full tax deferral program.

The final plan will go to committee for approval before it seeks city council's final blessing.

The motion was introduced by Cumberland Coun. Stephen Blais and Bay ward Coun. Mark Taylor.

West Carleton Coun. Eli El-Chantiry recused himself from the vote due to a conflict of interest, since he has a cottage affected by the flooding. He clarified that his main family residence is in Carp, but the Constance Bay property is inhabited by a family friend, who has been safely relocated.

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Ottawa DIGEST

CRIME

Pinterest tip aids police in child porn case

Ottawa police have charged a 66-year-old man with child pornography following a tip that came in through Pinterest.

Police got the information from the National Child Exploitation Coordination Centre that had received the tips through the Pinterest social media site.

The tips indicated an IP address in the Heron Park area of Ottawa had uploaded images of child pornography.

A search warrant was executed on a home Tuesday and police found several digital devices.

David Biggs, 66, is charged with three counts of possession of child pornography and two counts of making child pornography available.

He was set to appear in court on Wednesday.

METRO STAFF

SHOOTING

Local man faces firearm charges

Ottawa Police have charged a 58-year-old Ottawa man after a shot was fired at a home in the Gloucester area.

Police were called on May 5, at about 6:15 p.m. after a shots fired call. They set up a perimeter outside the house on Ramsayville Road, but the man came out and was arrested.

The Guns and Gang unit then executed a search warrant at the suspect's home and located seven firearms as well as ammunition.

Jocelyn Simard, 58, is facing charges of reckless discharge of a firearm, pointing a firearm and possession of a weapon with more charges expected.

METRO STAFF

Sundae School to serve up smiles in Beechwood

COMMUNITY

New ice cream spot to sweeten up retail mix

Lindsay Taub, 33, is set to open the doors to her new ice cream shop in the next couple of weeks. CONTRIBUTED

Strolling with her husband and newborn baby near their New Edinburgh home last summer, Lindsay Taub suddenly came up with a sweet business idea.

As liveable as the thriving neighbourhood just east of downtown Ottawa already is, Taub concluded it was missing a bit of flavour — of the dairy kind, that is.

"I think on a nice summer night, there's really something special about being able to walk down to your local main street and go get some ice cream with your friends or with your kids," Taub said. "I really wanted to bring that to my community."

A psychotherapist by profession, Taub, 33, was on maternity leave from her job at Crossroads Children's Centre and decided to make her ice cream dream a reality. Earlier this year, she leased space in a new commercial development on Beechwood Avenue, a few blocks from Richelieu Park, and got to work setting up shop.

The resulting venture, Sundae School, is set to open in the next few weeks. Taub is sure it will be an unqualified blockbuster, calling it "an investment in our community."

"Everybody loves ice cream," she said. "It's the perfect treat. It's sweet, it's rich, it's creamy. It's such a fun thing to eat — even in the winter."

She's gotten plenty of encouragement from her husband, Harley Finkelstein. The chief operating officer of Shopify, Finkelstein is one of the key architects of the e-commerce giant's success. But Taub said it was really his credentials as an ice cream aficionado that were more compelling in this particular business case.

"Harley loves sundaes, so he certainly had an influence in my decision to specialize in sundaes," she said. "He's got lots of experience with retail, obviously, but he's never owned a shop like this before. I'd say his ice cream expertise was more relevant."

When looking for product, she sought out a local supplier and found just the one in Carp Custom Creamery. "It was really important to me that we use a local Ottawa company," she said. "My sister-in-law lives in Carp and she had told me about this place, Carp Custom Creamery. I knew that this had to be the one that we sold."

> **Eating ice cream kind of makes you feel like a kid again.** Lindsay Taub

Taub is contributing the homemade toppings, with flavours such as hot fudge, salted caramel, peanut butter and mixed berry on the menu. Although it hasn't officially opened yet, Sundae School is already earning top grades on its Facebook page from those who've gotten a chance to sample its delights — including local tech leaders Fluidware co-founder Aydin Mirzaee and Fullscript CEO Kyle Braatz.

"These are our friends, so it's very nice to have (their reviews)," Taub said. "Because as you know, tech and ice cream go hand in hand. I think ice cream goes with everything."

DAVID SALI/OTTAWA BUSINESS JOURNAL

TRANSPORTATION

Ottawa-Gatineau transit link close to reality: NCC executive

Ryan Tumilty
Metro | Ottawa

The National Capital Commission's vision for the future of the region includes a transit link between Ottawa and Gatineau and the commission's CEO is hopeful that idea is close.

The transit link is identified as a significant project they would like to see completed, in the NCC's 50-year plan unveiled on Tuesday.

NCC CEO Mark Kristmanson said he's hopeful that change will happen.

Kristmanson said mayors in Ottawa and Gatineau are talking about the issue and the Prince of Wales Bridge remains there as a possibility.

Ottawa council voted earlier this year to have the city start conversations with Gatineau on a link. Currently, 60,000 commuters per day travel between the two cities on a typical weekday.

The NCC included the idea of a link in their 50-year-plan, which also calls for a national botanical gardens, a portrait gallery and a new facility celebrating the Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

The document is entirely aspirational with no funding for any of these projects. The NCC would not fund a transit link, but Kristmanson said they could help with assembling the required land.

He said they put it into the plan because they believe it's important and even though progress is being made, it could move further ahead. "We're a region we have two sides of the river and the more they work together the more viable our region will be," he said. "All of these things are heading in the right direction, but we would like to see even further emphasis put on it."

The NCC plan also talks briefly about the possibility of another car bridge across the Ottawa River, but concludes the current ones are enough for now. In the plan it said if that were to change the NCC would work with both provinces and both municipalities. "If a consensus emerges between the provinces of Ontario and Quebec and the affected municipalities that a new interprovincial bridge crossing is required, the NCC will collaborate in the planning and delivery of future interprovincial crossings."

Workers fence off the Prince of Wales bridge. METRO FILE

ICE HOCKEY THINGS LOOKING BRIGHT FOR SENATORS
The sun shines as Senators flags flap in the breeze on Elgin Street the morning after the Ottawa Senators Game 6 victory over the New York Rangers on Tuesday night. The team will now advance eastern conference final. HALEY RITCHIE/METRO

POLITICS

Liberals want Meilleur for languages post

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau is set to name ex-Ontario cabinet minister Madeleine Meilleur as official languages commissioner.

Meilleur announced her retirement from political life last June after 13 years as an Ontario MLA for Ottawa-Vanier.

The longtime Liberal held numerous cabinet posts during her career including francophone affairs, culture, community safety and correctional services as well as attorney general.

Meilleur is well-known for having participated in the fight to save the Montfort Hospital in Ottawa in the late 1990s.

News of her candidacy isn't creating unanimity among the opposition, with the NDP calling it a partisan appointment. Trudeau did not confirm Meilleur's nomination when asked about it during question period today, saying only the government is consulting with opposition parties before appointing a new commissioner in the coming weeks.

13
Number of years Madeleine Meilleur spent as an Ontario MLA for Ottawa-Vanier. She is known for fighting to save Monfort Hospital in the 90s.

Meilleur would replace Graham Fraser, whose mandate ended in December.

Deputy commissioner Ghislaine Saikaley is serving in an acting role until June.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Search is on for top CEO

EMPLOYMENT

Infrastructure Bank needs a talented person to run it

Ryan Tumilty
Metro | Ottawa

Now that Canada's Infrastructure Bank has a home the government is looking for a new person to run it.

Minister Amarjeet Sohi announced earlier this week that the bank would be located in Toronto and that they were now looking for a board and a CEO to run it, even while the legislation to create it is still working through parliament.

The bank aims to use at least $35 billion in government funding, to attract investment from pension funds and institutional investors, then to invest in the creation of infrastructure.

Mark Romoff, president and CEO of the Canadian Council for Public-Private Partnerships, said that finding someone with experience in the financial sector to lead the bank will be key.

However, that won't be the only thing the bank will need.

"Strong knowledge of Canadian federalism, regional needs, northern and Indigenous knowledge are other assets that should be rounded out in the senior leadership of the bank," he said.

Romoff said someone with experience building major projects is important, but the government should cast a wide net when it is trying to find the right people.

"My belief is you don't rule out anyone without that experience at this stage if they are bringing a different set of skills that would allow them to get the bank off the ground."

> **My belief is you don't rule out anyone without that experience at this stage.**
> Mark Romoff

Sohi has faced some criticism from Calgary and Montreal who had both hoped the government would locate the bank in those cities. Speaking to reporters earlier this week, he said the bank isn't going to build infrastructure so much as put the money together to get it built and in that vein Toronto makes sense.

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Both Carleton University and University of Ottawa lack diverse research chairs. METRO; GOOGLE MAPS

Local universities not meeting targets

ACADEMICS

Feds pushing for diversity in research chair appointments

Ryan Tumilty
Metro | Ottawa

Canada's science minister is telling universities to hit targets for diversity in their research chairs or risk losing the millions of dollars in funding that come with them.

Minister Kirsty Duncan said new results show universities are not doing enough to ensure the prestigious research chairs reflect Canada's diversity.

"I have been clear in the past that the numbers are dismal," she said. "These were voluntary targets that were developed over a decade ago and the universities have not met them."

The chairs are positions funded by the federal government through national research councils that offer the opportunity for universities to attract top talent.

There are 1,615 positions across the country and currently 483 are women. Visibly minorities, Indigenous peoples and those with disabilities are also underrepresented.

Locally, the University of Ottawa has 55 research chairs currently with 14 women and Carleton University has 23 chairs and nine women in those seats. Both schools have few visible minorities in the positions.

The research chairs go through a peer review process and Duncan said if they aren't meeting equality and diversity targets they will lose out.

"If the university continues to fail to meet their equity and diversity targets, they will not get peer review and they will not get their funding."

Duncan said pushing for more diversity won't dilute the quality of the talent Canada gets through the program and will only improve the research being done.

"We know that when we encourage diversity we bring different perspectives, different ideas, different experiences."

Amir Attaran, a University of Ottawa professor who did hold a research chair and is now suing the university for discrimination, said he's pessimistic about whether there will be real change.

"The minister is on the right track, but the bureaucrats involved are some of the most intransigent I have ever encountered."

He said there has been a long opportunity for change and nothing has happened. He's not confident the minister will be able to change minds.

"They spent a decade promising and failing to meet the equity targets," he said. "They're going to be there long after the minister is gone."

Amendments to the Citizenship Act enacted by the former Conservative government under Stephen Harper barred people from going to court to fight the loss of their Canadian status.
TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

AGRICULTURE

Census shows trend to more crop variety

Fewer and slightly older Canadian producers are planting more cropland on larger farms and are making stable profits.

That's the general overview of the 2016 Census of Agriculture released Wednesday.

Statistics Canada said urbanization is reducing cropland in some areas, but farmers have been converting some land formerly used as pasture, which led to a net increase.

Canola continues to be Canada's most-planted commodity, accounting for more than one-fifth of all cropland.

There are more oilseed and grain farms, but the trend in some areas is for farmers to grow a wider variety of crops.

"We actually have two success stories: soybeans have doubled over the past 15 years and lentils have tripled," said Ellen Bekkering, project manager for the census.

The size of beef cattle herds decreased from 2011 and the number of operations reporting beef cattle declined about 12 per cent. Statistics Canada attributes the decline to a spike in prices that prompted some producers to sell off herds and get out of the business.

55
Average age of a farmer, up slightly from the last census.

The area of hay and alfalfa declined by more than a million hectares, while pasture area also went down due in part to the smaller beef herd. Some of the land has been converted to other crops.

The new data shows slightly more women and people under 35 were making their living on the land — the first increase since 1991.

The census also shows many farm operators did off-farm work to make ends meet. Many worked an average of 30 hours a week in non-agricultural jobs.
THE CANADIAN PRESS

Judge calls citizenship rules unfair

FEDERAL COURT

Provisions enacted by federal Tories struck down

Stripping new Canadians of their citizenship without giving them a proper chance to explain themselves is a violation of their rights, a Federal Court judge declared Wednesday.

In a key decision, Judge Jocelyne Gagne struck down provisions of the Citizenship Act enacted by the former Conservative government under Stephen Harper, saying they conflict with principles of fundamental justice.

The decision comes in eight cases — considered as test cases — that challenged the constitutionality of the changes made in May 2015. Those amendments barred people from going to court to fight the loss of their Canadian status, in some cases leaving them stateless, over alleged lies on their residency or citizenship applications.

The changes also barred people from reapplying for Canadian citizenship for 10 years after revocation.

The eight cases involved people already stripped of their citizenship or facing a similar fate for various reasons. Three were accused of lying about where they were living before they applied for citizenship. Two others were minors when their parents allegedly misrepresented their residency.

In other cases, their fathers had failed to declare criminal convictions when applying for permanent residence.

The applicants attacked the rules on various grounds, among them the failure to guarantee a hearing before an independent and impartial adjudicator.

They also complained the government could keep information leading to revocation secret, and that the rules didn't allow consideration of the circumstances that led to the alleged application fraud.
THE CANADIAN PRESS

CLOSER LOOK | ONE CASE

Decorated Afghan vet stripped of citizenship

In one of the cases, Fiji-born Thomas Gucake became a permanent resident in 2001 when he was 15, and a citizen in 2005. He later became a decorated Canadian soldier, having served three tours in Afghanistan.

In November 2015, the government said it was stripping Gucake of his citizenship because information from 2007 showed his father failed to disclose a minor criminal conviction from Australia.

"It seems highly unfair to me that ... there is no requirement that Mr. Gucake's personal situation be considered," Judge Jocelyne Gagne said.
THE CANADIAN PRESS

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KINGSTON, ONT

Flintstones held up sale of woman's SUV

It's a yabba dabba doozy.

A 75-year-old Kingston-area woman couldn't trade in her Chevrolet SUV because Ontario's Ministry of Government and Consumer Services registered a lien on it in the name of Pebbles and Fred Flintstone.

"I thought I'd seen every imaginable government incompetence," said Progressive Conservative MPP Randy Hillier (Lanark-Frontenac-Lennox and Addington), who raised the cartoonish case Wednesday in the legislature.

"Clearly, we all knew this was an act of gross incompetence as everyone knows the Flintstones live on Rocky Road in Bedrock, U.S.A., and Fred drives a foot-mobile, not a 2006 Chev Uplander."

A copy of the lien from Carproof vehicle history reports shows the Flintstone address as "9 Street" in Markham, Ont., and Pebbles' birthdate as Jan. 1, 1950.

The goof took nine months to clear up after someone in the ministry had the nerve to advise hiring a lawyer to expunge the lien instead of simply fixing an obvious mistake.

"There was a human error. It's been identified. It's been corrected," said Government and Consumer Services Minister Tracy MacCharles.

The woman, whom Hillier identified as Maureen but said she did not want her last name used, contacted Service Ontario in March and the lien was discharged, MacCharles explained.

Testing on the computer system was conducted with fake names entered by a technician in relation to VINs — vehicle identification numbers, MacCharles said.

The test names were not removed, which begat the slate of problems that reduced the woman's hopes of trading in her car to rubble.

"It's a human error... Service Ontario, of course, is reviewing what happened," MacCharles added.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Clearly, we all knew this was an act of gross incompetence ... Flintstones live on Rocky Road in Bedrock, U.S.A., and Fred drives a foot-mobile.
MPP Randy Hillier

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau meets with Mexican President Enrique Pena Nieto during the APEC Summit in Lima, Peru, last November. Some observers have said that if push comes to shove, Canada may have to jettison Mexico and pursue its own bilateral deal with the U.S. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Can Mexico and Canada weather a NAFTA storm?

TRADE

As countries have grown closer, irritants have arisen

To hear Pierre Alarie tell it, Mexico and Canada are like two weary travellers seeking shelter from the same storm — the fierce bluster from Donald Trump's frequent criticism of the North American Free Trade Agreement.

The two nations will be better able to withstand that storm if they stand together, the Canadian ambassador to Mexico declared last month during a speech to a business gathering in that country's capital city.

Alarie's message, Mexican and Canadian officials say, reflects a deep level of co-operation between the two countries — something that, given the challenging three-way dynamics of North American politics, hasn't always been the case in the past.

It may not be the case in the future, either.

If push comes to shove, some observers warn, Canada will have to jettison Mexico and pursue its own bilateral side deal with the U.S. if the NAFTA talks degenerate.

A strong, newly negotiated three-way NAFTA is the goal, said Maryscott Greenwood, head of the Canadian American Business Council. But strained relations between Trump and Mexico could well make that difficult, she acknowledged.

"If it's politically impossible ... for the U.S. to move forward with a comprehensive economic relationship with Mexico for various reasons — Mexican politics, U.S. politics — then we think, 'Don't be delayed by that; move forward with a bilateral negotiation,'" Greenwood recently told the House of Commons foreign affairs committee.

Not surprisingly, Mexico's political leaders, like Tourism Minister Enrique de la Madrid Cordero, warn against abandoning NAFTA's unique three-way nature.

Canada and Mexico should be working together to modernize the 23-year-old trade deal, not settling for a series of bilateral side deals where one country throws the other under the bus to serve its own interests, he said.

Laura Macdonald, a Canada-Mexico expert at Carleton University, said Mexico and Canada have a checkered history of co-operation that dates back a quarter of a century.

"Mexico and Canada have not co-operated very well in the past. Originally, the Canadian government wasn't thrilled about Mexico being part of the NAFTA agreement," Macdonald said.

The two countries have grown closer over the years, but other irritants have arisen, notably the visa requirement that Stephen Harper's Conservative government imposed on Mexican travellers in 2009. It was lifted last year by the Liberals; Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's subsequent efforts to repair relations have brought the two countries closer together at an opportune time, Macdonald said.

Officials from either side of the Canada-Mexico divide, speaking on condition of anonymity in order to discuss matters of diplomatic sensitivity, say the lines of communication between the two countries are always open.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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EDUCATION

International applications to study in Canada rise

The so-called Trump effect is real when it comes to Canadian universities and Ottawa needs to take full advantage by making immigration easier, Concordia University's president said Wednesday.

In a speech to the Montreal Council on Foreign Relations, Alan Shepard said a wave of "regressive nationalism" has manifested itself in parts of the western world, leading students and academics to consider relocating to Canada.

"I am deeply surprised by what's happening in the U.S.," he told reporters after his speech.

> **In societies where you're really magnets for talent — as we are — you want to make the doors wide open.** Alan Shepard

"I grew up there and spent my first 40 years there and it's pretty difficult to watch."

He said the process for moving to Canada is unnecessarily complicated and that government needs to make it easier in order to take full advantage of the increased international interest.

Shepard said he had to hire a lawyer in order to complete his own immigration application to Canada from the United States.

"I have a doctorate and I found it difficult," he said. "It shouldn't be that hard."

The election of Donald Trump and the ensuing political climate have sparked what is being called the "Trump effect." Besides increased interest from international students for Canadian universities, high-tech workers are also looking more to Canada, according to the New York Times.

Claims about the Trump effect aren't just anecdotal. Universities are reporting data that backs it up. Since May 2016, U.S. applications for undergraduate studies at Concordia have increased by 23 per cent and by 74 per cent for graduate classes. Undergraduate applications from Mexico have jumped 325 per cent and by 233 per cent from India during the same period.

The Trump effect is real across many universities, Shepard said, adding "that's what I'm hearing from my colleagues across Canada." THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Pleas for help ignored in 2013

MEDITERRANEAN

Migrant SOS calls shows Italy, Malta arguing over boat rescue

An Italian news magazine has obtained recordings of telephone calls from a deadly migrant boat sinking, revealing how a Syrian father's desperate calls for help went unheeded for hours as Italy and Malta argued over who should mount the rescue.

"We are dying! Three hundred persons. We are dying!" a man identified as Mohanad Jammo, a doctor from Syria, tells the Italian coast guard in one of the recordings posted by L'Espresso magazine Wednesday.

Some 221 people survived the October 2013 ordeal; 27 bodies were recovered. An untold number went missing.

The sinking was one of two in the span of a week that prompted the Italian government to launch the "Mare Nostrum" rescue operation, which won praise internationally for saving thousands of lives and was eventually replaced by a broader EU-wide operation.

A man covered with a blanket is helped to disembark from a Maltese Navy ship at the Valletta harbour in Malta, after being rescued at sea in October 2013. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The Italian coast guard responded to the report on L'Espresso's website by noting that the incident occurred in Malta's area of search-and-rescue responsibility. In addition, Italian prosecutors investigated the case and said it should be shelved for lack of a crime, according to a statement.

> **We are dying! Three hundred people. We are dying!**
> Mohanad Jammo

The recordings begin at 12:39 p.m. on Oct. 11 with a call to the Italian coast guard from Jammo, who reports that his boat, carrying some 300 people, is taking on water and gives his co-ordinates. L'Espresso said the boat was about 61 miles south of the Italian island of Lampedusa, 118 miles southwest of Malta.

At 4:44 p.m., Maltese authorities tell the Italians that an Italian patrol ship is closest to the scene. The Italians responded that if they dispatched it, it wouldn't be in place to spot other emergencies and would have to take survivors to the nearest port. At the time, Lampedusa was still reeling from a capsizing off its shores the previous week in which some 369 people died.

The recordings end with the Maltese ringing the Italian operations centre back at 5:07 p.m. to report that their airplane had spotted the migrant boat capsizing, and that people were in the water.

"The boat has sank," a voice said.

In the end, both Maltese and Italian ships, as well as a fishing boat, responded to the disaster.

The number of migrants attempting dangerous sea crossings accelerated after 2013. Non-governmental organizations have joined rescue efforts with their own ships.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

UNITED STATES

Haitians living in fear of an end to immigration protection

Farah Larrieux feels like she's about to be forced out after living and working in the U.S. for more than a decade. Immigration privileges granted to her and many other Haitians after the 2010 earthquake could soon be revoked.

President Donald Trump's appointees must announce by May 23 whether to continue "temporary protected status" for about 50,000 Haitians legally living and working in the U.S. Without this status, they could suddenly face deportation.

A top immigration official has argued that Haiti is stable enough for its citizens to no longer need protection from deportation.

As President Barack Obama's administration repeatedly extended the benefits for Haitians, Florida came to feel like a permanent home to Larrieux.

"I am planning my life, settling down. I can tell you that I am financially getting stable — but now I don't know what's going to happen in the next three months," she said.

According to James McCament, President Donald Trump's acting director of U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, Haiti's poverty, political instability, infrastructure problems and cholera outbreak no longer qualify its citizens for a program responding to countries in crisis.

Haitian government officials said Wednesday they're ill-equipped to welcome back tens of thousands of people.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

BUDGET

Europe critical of Trump's cuts to UN

Putting money into UN agencies, where the Trump administration has just cut U.S. funding by $640 million, is as important to global peace and security as defence spending — "and sometimes even more," a top European Union official said Tuesday.

EU foreign policy chief Federica Mogherini told the UN Security Council that she wanted to speak directly to the bloc's "American friends" with a clear message: Military capabilities are only one element in the EU's security strategy, which also stresses economic development, strong state institutions, good health care, education and democracy.

While the U.S. budget through September approved by Congress last week cut $640 million from UN agencies, it added $15 billion to the U.S. defence budget.

Mogherini said the EU's voluntary contributions to the UN's funds and agencies "amount to half of their total budget" because organizations like the World Health Organization, the World Food Program and the UN children's agency UNICEF promote key ingredients for peace.

U.S. Ambassador Nikki Haley cited the Trump administration's "valuable partnership" with the EU on many issues but made no mention of budget cuts in her speech on UN-EU relations.

Instead, she urged stronger EU action on Syria, North Korea and Iran. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Americans react to firing

INVESTIGATION

Abrupt ousting of FBI director Comey draws sharp criticism

Americans could be forgiven if they're feeling a bit whiplashed by recent events in the nation's capital. Less than a week after House Republicans voted to dismantle Barack Obama's health care law, President Donald Trump abruptly fired FBI Director James Comey — only the second time in history that an FBI chief has been removed from office.

Then, on Wednesday, Trump met with Russia's top diplomat amid ongoing FBI and congressional probes of Russian meddling in last year's presidential election and possible contacts between the Trump campaign and Russia.

As voters processed the latest batch of news out of Washington, their opinions on Comey's dramatic sacking seemed to divide along familiar partisan lines: Republicans and Trump supporters saw it as necessary, while Democrats viewed it with suspicion.

Pennsylvania resident Tom Stump took a different tack, urging people to slow down and let the facts on Comey develop. "I'd say the jury's still out," he said.

Hundreds rally to protest against President Donald Trump's firing of FBI Director James Comey outside the White House Wednesday in Washington, DC. GETTY IMAGES

'I CAN SEE RIGHT THROUGH HIM'

As a Democrat who voted for Hillary Clinton, Loretta Shollenberger is no fan of Comey. She believes he helped decide the November election for Trump when he reopened the investigation into Clinton's email practices in the waning days of the campaign.

But Shollenberger believes Trump's firing of Comey had nothing to do with his handling of the probe.

"It's bogus," said Shollenberger, 69, from Mohrsville, Pennsylvania. "I think they're getting a little too close with his ties to Russia."

Trump hoodwinked his supporters, she said, but "he doesn't have me buffaloed. I can see right through him."

Shollenberger said she's concerned about the direction of the country and places blame squarely at the feet of the president.

"I would like to see him impeached and locked up," she said.

'KEEP YOUR MOUTH SHUT'

Tom Hier, 54, a Navy veteran and disabled security officer from Valrico, Florida, fully supports Trump's decision on Comey.

"As the FBI director, you've got to know when to say stuff and know when to keep your mouth shut," he said.

Hier was in downtown Bartow, Florida, on Wednesday for the campaign kickoff of Republican gubernatorial candidate Adam Putnam. Other Republicans at the event, including 77-year-old retiree Bill Ockington of The Villages, expressed similar views.

"But I'm surprised it happened," he said, "because everything is still up in the air."

By "everything," he meant the Russia probe.

"I think that should continue," he said.

DETAILS

Days before he was fired by Donald Trump, FBI Director James Comey requested more resources to pursue his investigation into Russia's election meddling and the possible involvement of Trump associates, U.S. officials said Wednesday, fueling concerns that Trump was trying to undermine a probe that could threaten his presidency. It was unclear whether word of the request ever made its way to Trump.

'NATIONAL TRAGEDY'

Oklahoma City bookstore owner Charles Martin supported Hillary Clinton in November, but he's tried to remain hopeful during the Trump presidency.

But Trump's latest move has him worried.

Firing the FBI director amid an ongoing investigation into possible contacts between the Trump campaign and Russia is un-American and something expected in a "strong-arm regime," said Martin, 40.

"What is unsettling about this is it looks like we might be getting to the end of what's been a national embarrassment and starting to approach the cusp of a national tragedy," Martin said.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

POLITICS

Trump hosts Russian foreign minister, envoy at White House

President Donald Trump on Wednesday welcomed Vladimir Putin's top diplomat to the White House for Trump's highest level face-to-face contact with a Russian government official since he took office in January.

The talks came a day after Trump fired the FBI director who was overseeing an investigation into Russia's alleged interference in the 2016 presidential election.

Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov entered through the West Executive entrance, out of range for reporters to ask questions. Also attending was Sergey Kislyak, the Russian ambassador to the U.S. who is at the centre of many of the Trump administration's early Russia-related woes.

The Russian Foreign Ministry tweeted a photo of Trump and Lavrov shaking hands in the Oval Office, and another of Trump and Kislyak. The White House called reporters into the Oval Office around the time of the meeting, but Lavrov and Kislyak had already left. And, in a surprise, Trump greeted the media with former Secretary of State Henry Kissinger.

In brief remarks to journalists after the meeting, Trump said his decision to abruptly fire FBI Director James Comey the day before his meeting with Lavrov did not affect the meeting "at all."

Earlier Wednesday, Lavrov met with Secretary of State Rex Tillerson, who said the get-together was a chance for the two to "continue our dialogue" and "exchange of views" that they started last month in Moscow. During that trip, Tillerson said relations with Russia were at a low and needed to be rebuilt.

A Russian plan to stabilize Syria after more than six years of civil war was the most urgent foreign policy topic on the Trump-Lavrov agenda.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NUCLEAR

Concerns over nuclear waste sites

The collapse of a tunnel containing radioactive waste at the Hanford nuclear weapons complex underscored what critics have long been saying: that the toxic remnants of the Cold War are being stored in haphazard and unsafe conditions, and time is running out to deal with the problem.

"Unfortunately, the crisis at Hanford is far from an isolated incident," said Kevin Kamps of the anti-nuclear group Beyond Nuclear.

For instance, at the Savannah River Site in South Carolina, which opened in the 1950s and produced plutonium and tritium, the government is labouring to clean up groundwater contamination along with 40 million gallons of radioactive liquid waste stored in tanks that are decades past their projected lifespan. The job is likely to take decades.

At Hanford, in addition to the tunnel collapse discovered on Tuesday, dozens of underground storage tanks, some dating to World War II, are leaking highly radioactive materials.

The problem is that the U.S. government rushed to build nuclear weapons during the Cold War with little thought given to how to permanently dispose of the resulting waste.

Safely removing it now is proving enormously expensive, slow-going, extraordinarily dangerous, and so complex that much of the technology required simply does not exist. The cleanup has also been plagued with setbacks both political and technical.

For example, the nation's only underground nuclear waste repository, in New Mexico, closed to new shipments in 2014 after an improperly packed drum of waste ruptured. The site just recently reopened.

The U.S. Department of Energy spends about $6 billion a year on managing waste left from the production of nuclear weapons.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Peanuts gang moving to Halifax company

ENTERTAINMENT

Schulz's family will continue to have 20% stake in franchise

The Peanuts gang of cartoon characters created by Charles Schulz is getting a new home at a Halifax-based entertainment company under a $345-million US deal announced Wednesday.

DHX Media will add the Peanuts and Strawberry Shortcake brands to its other properties, which include rights to the Teletubbies, Inspector Gadget, Degrassi and other programming for children and young audiences.

The agreement has the blessing of Schulz's widow, whose family will continue to have a 20 per cent share of the rights to the Peanuts cartoon and animation franchise.

"DHX Media feels like a perfect fit for Peanuts," Jean Schulz said in a joint statement issued by the company.

The proposed deal has been approved by the boards of DHX Media and Iconix Brand Group, which owns 80 per cent of the Peanuts brand and 100 per cent of the Strawberry Shortcake brand.

Before Charlie Brown, his dog Snoopy and their friends can join DHX Media, the agreement also requires various regulatory approvals and completion of a financing package.

The agreement to send Charlie Brown and Snoopy to Halifax-based DHX Media has the blessing of Jean Schulz, the widow of **cartoonist Charles Schulz,** above, seen displaying a sketch of his beloved character Snoopy in 1997. THE CANADIAN PRESS/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

> **DHX Media feels like a perfect fit for Peanuts.**
> Jean Schulz

DHX has hired RBC Capital Markets and Jefferies Finance to provide a fully underwritten debt financing covering the purchase price and refinance substantially all of the company's debt.

The company — which operates specialty television channels in Canada in addition to managing global sales of its programming library — also announced Wednesday that its third-quarter revenue and profit were lower than last year.

Revenue fell seven per cent to $78 million and net income dropped 25 per cent to $7.6 million, but were within analyst estimates. THE CANADIAN PRESS

MARIJUANA LEGALIZATION

Pot not a threat to booze sales: Study

The recreational marijuana industry is expected to take a sip of less than one per cent initially out of annual Canadian alcohol sales once it becomes legal, a new analysis says.

The Anderson Economic Group, a business consulting firm in New York, says legalization of marijuana would sap $160 million out of the country's $22.1 billion booze sector, rising as use of the drug expands.

The beer market, which is worth about $9.2 billion, is anticipated to take a $70-million hit in the first year of marijuana legalization, according to the Anderson Economic Group.

"It won't affect spending patterns necessarily the first year to the degree where individuals' buying habits will change overnight," said Peter Schwartz, an Anderson consultant and editor of its biannual Cannabis Market Report.

A Deloitte report has estimated that the Canadian market for marijuana could be worth up to around $22.6 billion a year, including about $4.9 billion to $8.7 billion from the sale of the substance, with the rest coming from the ancillary market including growers, testing labs and security.

Analyst Vivien Azer of U.S.-based research firm Cowen and Company is anticipating the alcohol industry could be under substantial pressure over the next decade if young people continue to take a pass on drinking.

In a report released last month, Azer said just under 82 per cent of 18- to 29-year-olds in Ontario consumed alcohol in 2015, down 5.5 percentage points since 2008, while marijuana use has been steady at around 34 to 36 per cent. THE CANADIAN PRESS

HEALTH

Company recalls breaded chicken

Federal health officials say Maple Leaf Foods Inc. is recalling various breaded chicken products because they may contain a toxin produced by Staphylococcus bacteria.

The Canadian Food Inspection Agency says the affected products, which were sold in Ontario and Quebec, include Maple Leaf brand Chicken Breast Strips in 840-gram packages with a best-before date of April 20, 2018.

Chicken burgers under the Sufra Halal and Mina Halal brand names in 828-gram packages are also being recalled.

The CFIA says food contaminated with Staphylococcus toxin may not look or smell spoiled and that the toxin produced by the bacteria is not easily destroyed at normal cooking temperatures. THE CANADIAN PRESS

HOUSING

Global sales of luxury homes cooled in 2016, Christie's says

Global luxury home sales cooled off in 2016 for the second consecutive year, even with a record number of homes selling for more than $100 million.

A report released Wednesday by Christie's International Real Estate shows that sales of homes priced at $1 million US or more edged up about one per cent worldwide last year.

That represents a sharp slowdown from 2015, when luxury home sales climbed eight per cent, and from 2014, when sales vaulted 16 per cent.

Despite the sluggish sales growth, Christie's says luxury home prices continued to rise last year, increasing about two per cent from a year earlier. And for the first time, 10 homes sold for more than $100 million each. The priciest sale, a mansion located in The Peak neighbourhood in Hong Kong, fetched more than $270 million.

Luxury home sales sank 67 per cent in the U.K. from a year earlier, while sales slipped four per cent in the U.S. and slid 29 per cent in markets in the Asia-Pacific region. In contrast, sales climbed 20 per cent in Europe and 44 per cent in Canada. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

$ TORONTO MARKET BUCKS TREND

- Sales prices rose in more than half of the markets. Toronto posted the biggest gain, 20 per cent.
- Toronto led a separate gauge of the hottest luxury markets, or those where the pace of sales was strongest. Its luxury home sales were nearly double what they were in 2015.
- Luxury homes in Toronto took an average of 17 days to sell last year, down from 28 days the year before. That was the fastest sales pace of any market.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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CHANTAL HÉBERT ON THE B.C. ELECTION

With pipelines and electoral reform rearing their heads, one way or another this is not the result the Trudeau government wanted or needed.

On the morning after Tuesday's British Columbia election, there was no ready acknowledgement by Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's office of the results of the provincial vote in Canada's third largest province and no boilerplate salute to the dawn of a new mandate.

It is hard to put the sound of one hand clapping into words.

In the wake of an election that failed to give either of the province's main parties a clear win, it will take weeks — and probably at some point in the not so distant future another election — for the political landscape in British Columbia to sort itself out.

On Tuesday, the province's voters left the incumbent Liberals on the doorstep of a majority, just one seat short of the 44 required to keep control of the B.C. legislature. There is still a possibility that a handful of recounts and/or the outcome of the absentee vote will help premier Christy Clark to cross the threshold.

Under that best-case scenario for her party, she would lead a government so fragile it would be at the mercy for its survival of the whims of a few maverick MPs from her own ranks. It does not enhance the moral authority of an incumbent to need a recount to be reconfirmed in the job.

Only two seats separate the first-place Liberals from the New Democrats. The recount could also flip the result in favour of the NDP.

But under just about any configuration of the final seat-count, Clark and NDP leader John Horgan will have to try to come to terms with the Green Party. With three seats, it has the capacity to anchor one or the other to power and provide B.C. with some measure of governing stability.

Green Party leader Andrew Weaver could do that by joining the Liberals or the NDP in a coalition government as the Saskatchewan Liberals did in 1999 or as the Ontario NDP did in 1985 by agreeing to support one of the other parties in government for some period of time in exchange for policies that are close to his heart.

But whether Clark remains at the helm beyond the first confidence vote of the opening session of the mandate or not or even if she ends up clinging to a razor-thin majority it will hardly be business as usual. As of now and until B.C. returns to the polls at some unspecified time, the province stands to be in permanent campaign mode.

The province stands to be in permanent campaign mode.

In the interval, the uncertain outcome of Tuesday's vote could force Clark's Liberals to belatedly renounce their rich diet of corporate donations and join the political fundraising Canadian mainstream.

It could also restore some impetus to the electoral reform debate. Both the B.C. Greens and the NDP advocate a more proportional voting system. The province has done more legwork on the issue than most other Canadian jurisdictions. There may be a window to try — for the third time — to replace the first-past-the-post system.

One way or another, though, this is not the result the Trudeau government wanted or needed.

As things stand today, a majority of the elected members of the next B.C. legislature are on record as opposing the Kinder Morgan plans to expand its Trans Mountain pipeline.

Clark herself only offered tepid support for the plan. Should she form a viable government, it is unlikely to be the hill she would choose to die on.

The project is a key piece in Trudeau's energy/environment puzzle but not one that his own caucus is unanimously enamoured with. The Prime Minister has always claimed that he did not believe such projects should proceed without a social licence.

It was not the only issue on the B.C. ballot but it was in the mix. Clark's Liberals took most of the hits that cost them their soft majority cushion in and around the ground zero of the Trans Mountain project, in the larger Vancouver area.

That will be duly noted not only in the Liberal backrooms of Parliament Hill but also in the constituency offices of Trudeau's 17 B.C. MPs.

This is just the first of a series of provincial elections that could weaken Trudeau's hand at the federal-provincial table. By the time the next federal election comes around in 2019, Quebec, Ontario and Alberta will also have gone to the polls and each of those provincial votes has the potential to result in more complications for the agenda of the ruling federal Liberals.

Chantal Hébert is a national affairs writer. Her column appears in Metro every Thursday.

SHAKY GROUND Christy Clark and Justin Trudeau were once all smiles, but there was no rush at the Prime Minister's Office to congratulate the B.C. Premier on her narrow victory. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Meredith case ought to be a wake-up call for Parliament Hill

Vicky Mochama
Metro

Don Meredith may be gone from the Hill, but the atmosphere that enabled him is still a concern for women.

When Ms. M decided to report her sexual relationship with Sen. Meredith to authorities, police told her that although a case like hers comes with a publication ban on her name, "her identity would be known to anyone who attended court or examined the court file," according to the Toronto Star.

Instead, she chose to report to the Senate ethics officer, who offered her a cloak of confidentiality. (The ethics officer, believing a crime may have occurred, notified the police who asked the Senate to suspend its investigation. After four months, Ottawa police stopped the investigation without laying charges.)

Though not a Hill staffer herself, Ms. M chose to speak to Star reporter Kevin Donovan after hearing other media reports that Sen. Meredith was under investigation for sexual harassment in the workplace: "She was concerned that the investigators would not believe what the former staff members were alleging and she wanted to add her voice to the story."

Her bravery and fortitude are beyond commendable.

Her story, however, is part of the problem and future of Parliament Hill.

For all we hear about "men in power," the halls of government in Ottawa are female-dominated. Female staffers and volunteers are the backbone and engine of the legislative branch. Many are young, ambitious and, for those reasons, vulnerable.

Were that not enough, the systems of accountability can be unclear. To whom does a young staffer report their MP? Or their chief of staff? Or a fellow staffer?

The viable options can differ from party to party, which makes it even harder for young staffers. In a three-part series, the Hill Times reported on this dynamic: "Even if someone does report, they may be reporting the harassment to either their own MP or one of their MP's colleagues, through the whip's office, though the House chief human-resources officer is also a reporting avenue."

In 2014, the House of Commons launched a harassment policy. And while this led to more complaints being filed, there are also many that exist outside of the House's jurisdiction yet entirely within their culture.

A VICE essay by former staffer Beisan Zubi showed how the culture of Parliament Hill can deter someone from reporting sexual harassment. From lobbyist parties to bar nights with colleagues to one-on-one meetings, being both collegial and ambitious can put workers on the Hill in danger.

Ms. M's bravery in holding the Senator accountable must be met with an equally bold response.

The bubble of the Hill ought to make way for a cultural change and policies that ensure the safety of its most vulnerable workers.

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Academy Award winner Steve McQueen will direct an authorized documentary about Tupac Shakur

'I wanted the reader to be stuck in there and almost suffocate'

Aid worker Christophe André's kidnapping ordeal is portrayed in comic book style in Guy Delisle's claustrophobic Hostage. CONTRIBUTED

BOOKS

Quebec cartoonist captures the agony of being kidnapped

Sue Carter
For Metro Canada

Christophe André, an administrator working in the Caucasus with the humanitarian organization Médecins Sans Frontières, was sleeping one night when a group of men burst into his bedroom, threw a sack over his head and took him into captivity.

He was held in a series of bare apartments, his arm chained above his head to a radiator, unaware of what his kidnappers wanted, until he escaped 111 days later in Chechnya, barefooted, weak and malnourished.

André's abduction took place 20 years ago, early in the summer of 1997, but kidnapping remains an occupational hazard for employees of non-governmental organizations like MSF.

In some politically volatile countries like Somalia, Syria and Afghanistan, kidnapping is almost a rite of passage.

Quebec-born cartoonist Guy Delisle — who now lives in France where he is considered a celebrity artist — remembers reading a newspaper interview with André after his escape. Delisle was captivated by the story because most people who have returned from a kidnapping don't want to talk about their experiences.

But Delisle was struck by André's openness and a quote where he said, "He felt like a football player that scored the last goal and won the match."

The story also had a deep personal connection for Delisle. His wife Nadège is a former administrator with MSF, and his experiences travelling with their family for her job is the subject of two of his acclaimed graphic novels, Burma Chronicles and Jerusalem: Chronicles from the Holy City.

When Delisle initially met André in person, he was full of questions, and took many notes even before they left the restaurant.

"I didn't think he wanted to go into detail, but he was talking very freely about the whole thing, and he gave us the whole story from beginning to end," says Delisle, who immediately suggested to André they turn his memories into a comic.

André had no desire to write a book about the experience but agreed and provided more recordings and documents. Delisle began their interview process, and the tough work of illustrating a story where most of the action happens in someone's head.

Hostage — which Delisle started drawing in 2003 and is now being released in English by Montreal publisher Drawn & Quarterly (translated by Helge Dascher) — is a nail-biter of a tale told completely from André's point of view.

As André's captivity stretches out over months, Delisle ratchets up the tension with repetitive linework, a gloomy grey palette and tightly boxed-in panels, which just adds to the overwhelming sense of confinement. In developing the story, Delisle even took a few tips from old interviews with the master of suspense, Alfred Hitchcock.

"I wanted the reader to be stuck there, just like Christophe was, then turn the page and almost suffocate," says Delisle. "There are so many pages where you want to escape, but it's not that easy in 450 pages."

As André's body gets weaker, the earlier fantasies of returning home for his sister's wedding and his own homecoming seem impossible.

But then comes his incredible movie-worthy escape, thanks to a door left fortuitously open. Delisle suggests that while readers can imagine themselves in André's life-or-death predicament, or be confident that they would run or fight, it's nearly impossible to know one's reaction under all that physical and emotional stress.

"It's really hard to imagine what you would do, because you really do have to be in that situation to realize that you can do crazy things and you are much more than you think," says Delisle.

"Christophe is an administrator, not an adventure guy. It really is the story of an ordinary guy in an extraordinary situation."

Sue Carter is the editor at Quill & Quire magazine.

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Bringing Little Free Libraries to book

READING

Study suggests exchanges don't quench thirst in 'book deserts'

David Hains
Metro | Toronto

For years now, charming little "take-a-book, leave-a-book" structures have been popping up on homeowners' lawns across Canada and the world.

Although many of us have noticed these conveniently late-fee-free libraries, fewer people know they're overseen by Little Free Library, an American non-profit with 50,000 registered mini-libraries worldwide.

The organization's stated mission is to inspire a love of reading, build community, and increase access to books, especially in so-called "book deserts," where public libraries and bookstores are scarce. Fees to register a book box start at $49 US.

And some radical librarians say supporters of Little Free Library aren't seeing the bigger story.

In a study published in the Journal of Radical Librarianship (it's a real thing!) Ryerson University librarian Jane Schmidt and University of Toronto reference specialist Jordan Hale argue that the neighbourhood mini-libraries don't live up to their goals.

Hale and Schmidt mapped out the locations of the registered take-a-book, leave-a-book fixtures in Toronto and Calgary. They found the sweet little structures are located mainly in majority-white, affluent neighbourhoods well-served by public libraries — not the book deserts most in need.

"Who could critique a little birdhouse of books?" Hale rhetorically asked Metro, adding that she has an issue with the Little Free Library organization, and not the idea of swapping and sharing books.

But her paper does just that.

"We posit that in absence of any research or evidence of an issue to be addressed … simply encouraging literacy in an already information-rich and privileged environment is hardly a heroic charitable act," Schmidt and Hale wrote.

Jordan Hale has co-authored a critique of the book exchange system known as Little Free Libraries. EDUARDO LIMA/METRO

The publication has been met with scorn from some in the library community, including on Library Journal's Annoyed Librarian blog, whose pseudonymous author wrote, "The entire article could have been boiled down to this sentence: Little Free Libraries claim to put books in places without public libraries, but that's not true in Toronto and only partially true in Calgary, and they are not politically radical and therefore are bad."

As far as watering book deserts goes, Little Free Library does provide no-cost depots through a donor-driven fund.

The non-profit told Metro they have set up hundreds of units through the donor program, including 40 in the past eight months in the U.S., and look to continue to add more.

"Through these little libraries, millions of books are shared each year," spokesperson Margret Aldrich wrote in an email.

Hale expressed concern that some jurisdictions turn to Little Free Libraries following cuts to full-scale libraries and that they are not an adequate substitute.

She encouraged people to support their local public library and literacy initiatives in communities that need them most.

WITH FILES FROM GENNA BUCK

metro HOME
Your essential daily news

Former Park Slope apartment of Barack Obama, now single-family home, listed for $4.3M

MEET THE CONDO

Low rise condos near the Rideau's banks

DETAILS

What: Jazz Condos
Builder: Urbandale Construction
Location: Just off Brian Good Avenue
Building: Condominiums
Models: Two bedrooms, two bathrooms
Sizes: From 1,285 to 1,833 square feet
Pricing: Starting at $260,900
Status: Now selling
Occupancy: Immediate occupancy
Sales centre: 749 Brian Good Ave.
Phone: (613) 822-2190
Website: urbandale-construction.com

CONTRIBUTED

Project overview

Jazz Condos in Riverside South is in its final phase of selling with only a handful of units still available. These low-rise condos are in one of the fastest-growing communities in Ottawa with a vibrant and diverse population and easy access to surrounding rural areas.

Housing amenities

Condominiums feature private entrances and individual garages. Interior amenities include bright and open concept living spaces as well as high ceilings, granite countertops, hardwood flooring and central air conditioning.

Location and transit

Jazz Condos are located in the heart of Riverside South. Public transit is accessible on Earl Armstrong Road with routes servicing the downtown core. The area also allows easy commuting by car as several main roads, such as River Road, Woodroffe Avenue and Limebank Road are nearby.

In the neighbourhood

Jazz Condos are situated along the banks of the Rideau River. Jazz Condos are a paradise for those who enjoy the outdoors with plenty of surrounding green space and trails for walking, running and cycling. There are restaurants and shopping plazas nearby. JENNA GUILBEAULT/FOR METRO

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Spoil mom with gifts that pamper

BEAUTY

Skin care, makeup, fragrance and lifestyle treats

Janine Falcon

5-minute-face mom: A clever compact that includes coordinated eye shades, blush, bronzer and highlighter makes speedy makeup a breeze, especially when its designed by a superstar artist who works on faces of all ages. *Charlotte Tilbury Beauty Glow Palette, $85; Available at Nordstrom.*

Beauty-tech mom: In addition to a blissful three-minute neck-and-face massage twice daily, and 6x-better-than-hands cleansing, mom can enjoy firmer, bouncier skin and a more defined, lifted effect in 12 weeks. *Clarisonic Firming Massage Head for existing Clarisonic Smart Profile units, $79 or Clarisonic Smart Profile Uplift Set, $429; Available at Hudson's Bay.*

Not-dressed-without-fragrance mom: Think bouquets for mom with the Aerin Rose Cologne Collection, which spotlights the white Bulgarian rose in three light, spirit-lifting arrangements: Bamboo Rose, Linen Rose and Garden Rose. *6mL eau de cologne rollerball, $34; 200mL spray, $198. Available at Holt Renfrew, Nordstrom and Saks Fifth Avenue.*

Sparkle-and-shine mom: Go twinsies on jewelry — that you and mom wear matching tokens of deep affection will always warm your hearts. (Sappy, but wonderfully true.) *Jenny Bird x Indigo Collection Moonbeam Cuff, $40 (regular price); Avail-able at Indigo.*

Entrepreneur mom: Help mom empower other moms by providing resources for small-business ventures that support women and their families in developing countries. *Plan International Canada's The Mom Shop Gift of Hope, $75; Visit plangifts.com.*

Time-savvy mom: An ultra-thin timepiece clad in misty-rose matte nude with glimmering golden design accents goes with everything, and means mom can check the time on the fly, without digging for her phone. *Swatch SKIN Skin watch, $145; Visit shop.swatch.com for retailers.*

Outdoorsy mom: Particulate-matter pollution is so tiny that it can get into pores and create complexion issues, including premature aging. Update mom's skin care rituals with an activated-charcoal treatment that draws those impurities out, smooths, brightens and protects, too. *Dermalogica Daily Superfoliant, $79; Visit dermalogica.ca for retailers.*

Bathroom-spa mom: A soothing, non-drying clarifying Italian-clay masque that serves as a deep cleanser and spot treatment. It comes in a weighty, limited-edition jar designed by Italian ceramics workshop Rometti. *Fresh Umbrian Clay Purifying Mask, $75; Available at Sephora and Nordstrom.*

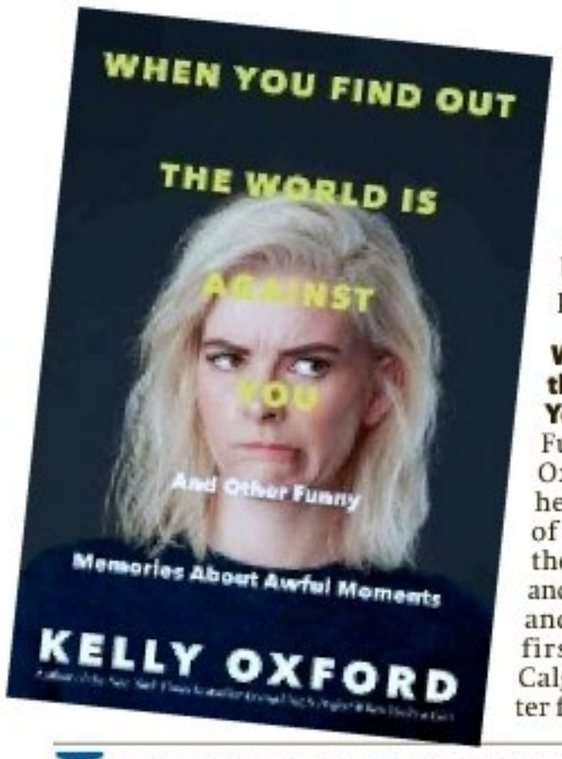
Early-morning mom: A lightweight, no-cord, built-in-lighting mirror makes pre-sunshine makeup application next to the coffee maker easier for mom. Bonus: 7x magnification on the flip side. *Conair Reflections LED Lighted vanity mirror, $49.99; Visit conaircanada.ca for retailers.*

No-mess mom: A re-useable (up to three times) dry sheet mask infused with anti-aging peptides and ingredients such as Shea butter and glycerin, that help skin hold onto moisture, is an ideal no-clean-up treat for mom's complexion. *Charlotte Tilbury Instant Magic Dry Sheet Face Mask, $27; Available at Holt Renfrew.*

In-a-rush mom: Dry shampoo between washes tempers oil at the scalp, but what about keeping the length supple and shiny? Enter dry conditioner, which detangles, softens and refreshes the rest of mom's second- or third-day 'do. *Aveda Shampure Thermal Dry Conditioner, $40; Visit aveda.ca for locations.*

Has-everything mom: If she already has a Dyson Supersonic hair dryer, then mom really has everything — except maybe an air purifier that filters out 99.97 per cent of allergens, including pollen, pet dander and mold spores, as well as 0.3 microns. Plus it heats and cools as needed. *Dyson Pure Hot+Cool Link, $699; Visit dysoncanada.ca for retailers.*

Literary picks for the family bookworm



Amongst this crop of recently published books by moms, for moms and about moms, you'll find a book to suit the voracious bookworm, the leader of the book club, or the poolside page-turner.

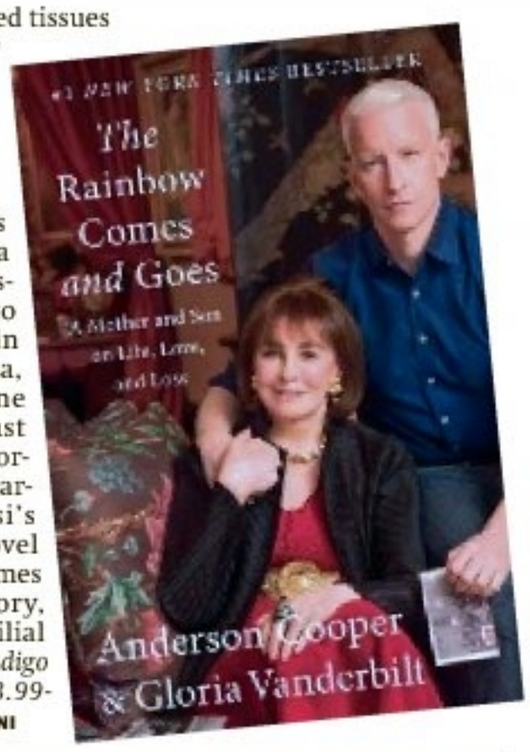
When You Find Out the World Is Against You by Kelly Oxford
Funny woman Kelly Oxford is back with her second collection of essays, filled with the sort of razor-sharp and hilarious anecdotes and observations that first catapulted the Calgary mom to Twitter fame — and to a new life in Los Angeles — years ago. *Available at Indigo and Amazon.ca; $15.99-$46.23.*

Dear Ijeawele, or A Feminist Manifesto in Fifteen Suggestions by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie
When an old friend reached out for advice on how to best raise her daughter as a feminist, Nigerian author Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie responded with a letter detailing 15 ideas. Now, Adichie has turned those suggestions into a thoughtful manifesto for parents seeking to raise empowered, feminist daughters — and sons. *Available at Indigo and Amazon.ca; $9.99-$11.40.*

It All Begins with Food by Leah Garrad-Cole
For new moms and mothers of young children, Leah Garrad-Cole's book is a rich resource for creating delicious and wholesome meals that teach an appreciation for healthy living. The author knows her stuff; she's the founder of Love Child Organics, the highly successful maker of healthy snacks for kids and babies. *Available at Indigo and Amazon.ca; $16.99-$28.39.*

The Rainbow Comes and Goes by Anderson Cooper and Gloria Vanderbilt
In this deeply intimate collection of personal correspondence, the famous mother-and-son duo discuss their lives with incredible candor, revealing their unique bond and their distinctive personalities. Mom may need tissues for this one. *Available at Indigo and Amazon.ca; $11.99-$26.70.*

Homegoing by Yaa Gyasi
Homecoming tells the story of Effia and Esi, two half-sisters who, born into different villages in 18th century Ghana, are unknown to one another and are cast on different trajectories that lead to disparate lives. Yaa Gyasi's masterful debut novel weaves together themes of love, race, history, geography and familial bonds. *Available at Indigo and Amazon.ca; $13.99-$42.01.* **JACLYN TERSIGNI**



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10 Holding employers accountable

WORKING FOR A
#FAIRFUTURE

Issue 1 • Volume 1 A SPONSORED FEATURE BY PEPPER MEDIA Thursday, May 11, 2017

Strengthening the foundations of Canada's workplaces

When Ontario's 60 Loblaws Great Food and Superstores introduced fair scheduling pilots in a deal struck with the United Food and Commercial Workers union, the lives of part-time workers became significantly less stressful overnight. With advance notice on schedules from three to 10 days, employees could now book child care and plan family events with confidence.

Another deal between Unifor Local 414 and the Metro grocery chain guaranteed workers a minimum of 15 hours a week after one year of employment and 24 hours a week after eight years.

These are the kinds of moderate but critical measures that can change the lives of the four million Canadians – about 25 per cent of all workers – who earn $15 or less per hour and often work in insecure, part-time positions. (Almost a third of younger workers are in temporary jobs.)

"Canadians are feeling greater stress about their own work lives and those of future generations, for good reason," reported Dr. Kendra Coulter, a labour studies professor at the Centre for Labour Studies at Brock University. Low pay, erratic hours and little job security are key issues as employers increasingly rely on part-time workers, often hiring new employees even when existing staff want more hours.

"Most people can't get by with so few hours, particularly when combined with a low hourly wage. Unemployment is a problem and so is underemployment," Coulter says.

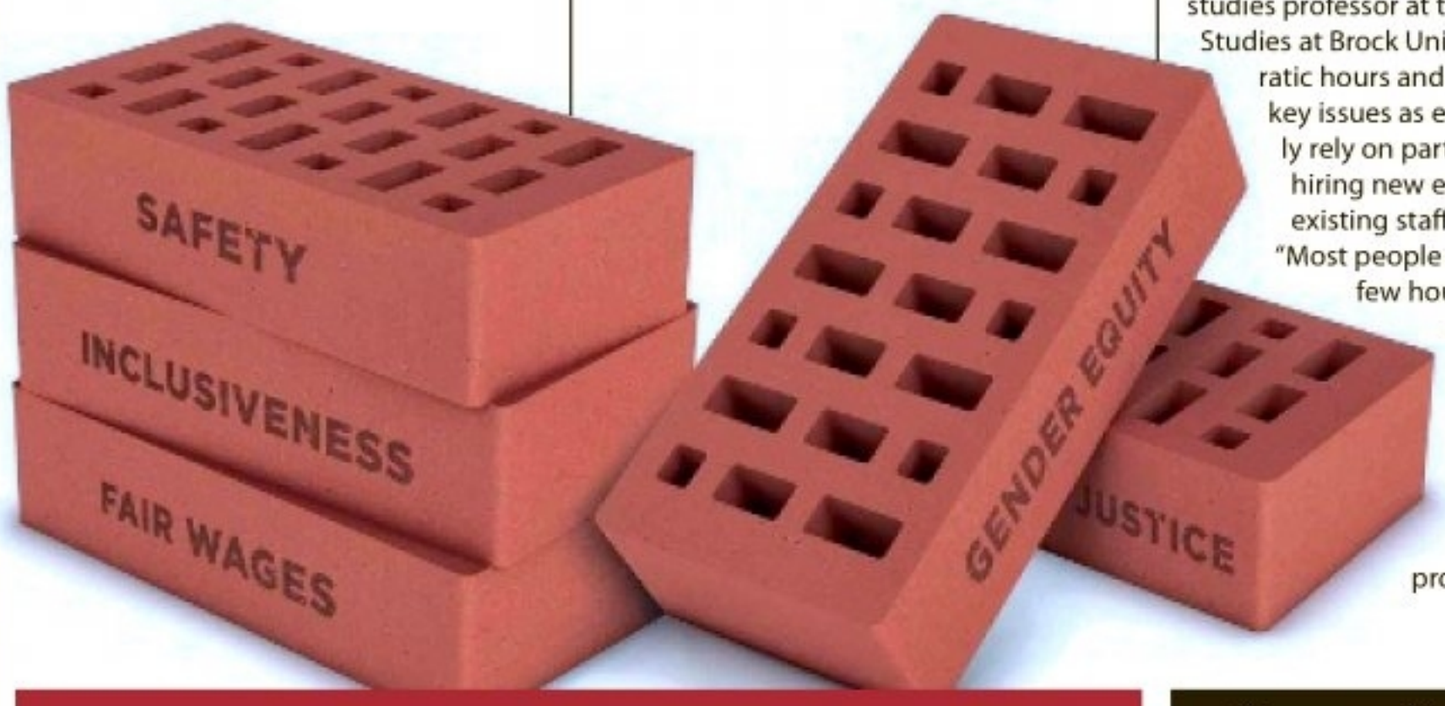
> "You can also profit by paying fair wages and treating employees with respect; earning their loyalty and commitment."
>
> **Dr. Kendra Coulter,**
> Professor, Centre for Labour Studies, Brock University

Fortunately, progressive-minded companies are increasingly collaborating with unions to leverage the benefits of fair employment practices. "You can also profit by paying fair wages and treating employees with respect; earning their loyalty and commitment," Coulter noted.

Samia Hashi, who recently helped to unionize her own workplace at Bell TV, agrees that unions play an important role in ensuring fairness. As a panelist at a recent Young Workers Conference, she said, "Although at times, meeting our objectives and bringing about change can be a long task, we must always keep at it – action can make a difference!

"If more people have a bit more money, they are healthier, happier, able to contribute more fully to society and, of course, they spend it, usually close to home. Many employers in countries like Sweden and some here in Canada have learned these lessons and are prospering."

Workers and governments also have critical roles to play in creating a stable employment future that offers benefits for all stakeholders, Coulter says. "Through commitment and political will, it is possible to grow the economy in sustainable, healthy and ethical ways – so people not only have careers, but can be proud of what they do." ■



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OPINION

Making jobs better, for a fair future

by Hassan Yussuff,
Canadian Labour Congress
President

Feeling on edge lately because of work? Maybe you don't know when your next shift will be, or you can't scrape together enough hours to make ends meet. Maybe you're worried about getting sick and not being able to take time off. Or maybe you or someone you love can't find a job at all.

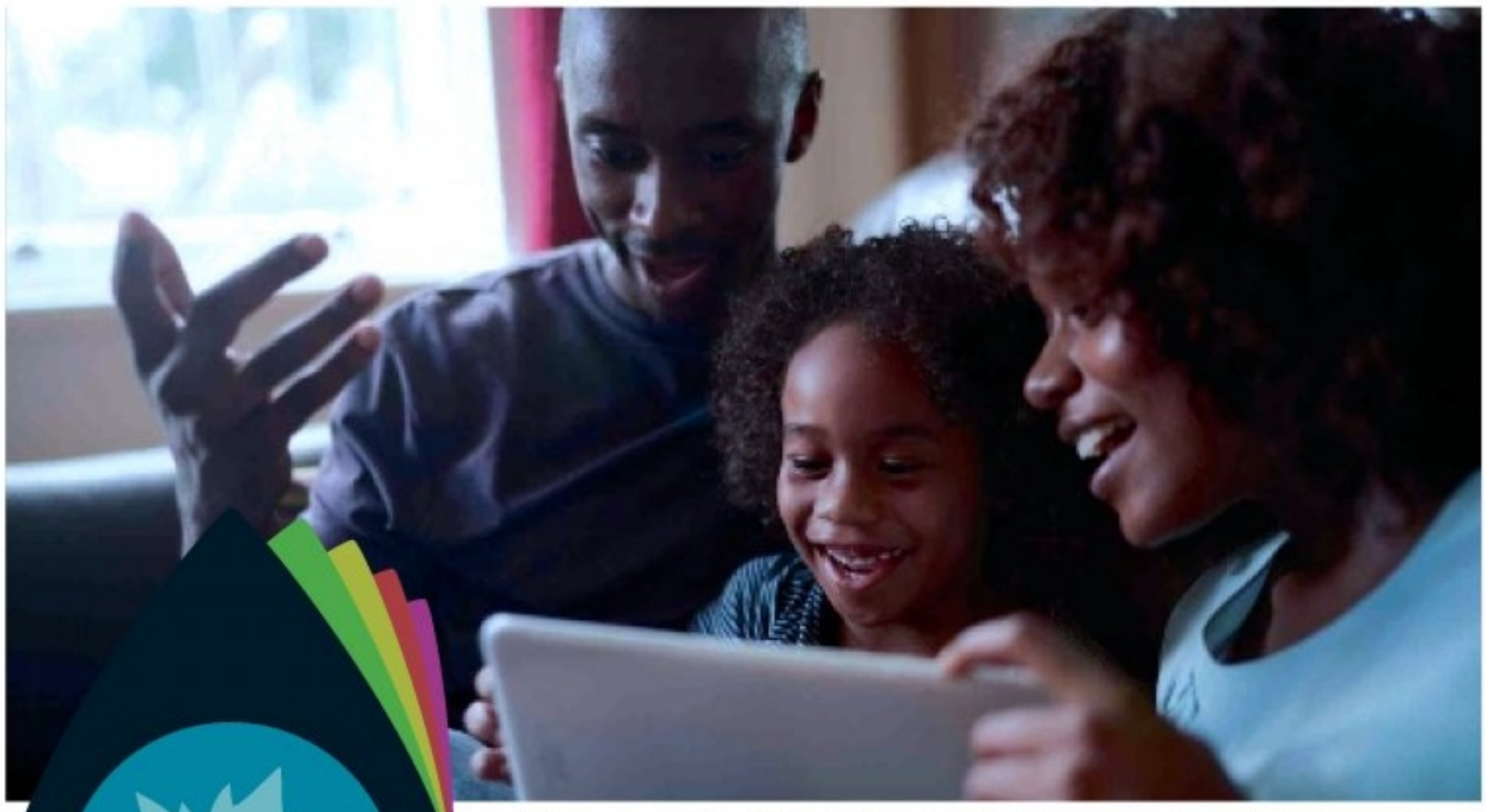
Unfortunately, more and more Canadian workers are struggling to establish their careers. Instead of actually sharing in the benefits of the much-hyped "sharing economy," average people are living precariously in today's labour market. For the first time in history, young Canadians are expected to earn less than their parents.

So I can't help but look at my own nine-year-old daughter with concern about what the future will hold for her. Will she be able to find secure, meaningful, full-time work? Will she be mired in a precarious existence for her lifetime? Is my generation leaving hers behind?

Many of today's young workers may never know the benefit of a lifelong career. Instead they will cycle through a lifetime of revolving door employment that is being dubbed the "job churn." Almost one-third are currently in temporary jobs, many work for multiple employers, and they are twice as likely to be unemployed. Despite being the most educated generation in history, young Canadians today struggle to find jobs that match their qualifications.

The consequences are more than just financial. In a recent survey by the Ontario Federation of Labour, nearly one-third of precarious workers said their most significant concern was how their work situation impacted their emotional health. That is a dramatic stress tax to pay for employment, and it isn't what my generation and my parents' generation wanted for our children and grandchildren.

Unions believe we can do better. We can work together to build a fair future, instead of relying on an unstable foundation of part-time, temporary, low-wage jobs.



Unions are working with federal and provincial governments to win better province-wide and national standards for workers, and help all Canadians build a better future for generations to come. ISTOCKPHOTO.COM

Fairness in our changing world of work starts with raising the minimum wage to at least $15/hour, because working for a living shouldn't mean living in poverty.

Fairness in our changing world of work starts with raising the minimum wage to at least $15/hour, because working for a living shouldn't mean living in poverty. Right now, Alberta is leading the way as they phase in a $15 minimum wage by 2018, and unions are working hard to convince other provinces and the federal government to do the same so there is a national standard for all Canadian workers.

Next, workers need predictable hours and paid time off for illness or emergencies. Otherwise they're left making the same impossible choices between family, health and work.

Many grocery store workers have felt the reality of unpredictability over the past several years, but recently, groups have started working with their unions to tackle that issue. More than 10,000 part-time workers at Ontario's Loblaws and Superstores won fairer scheduling and better hours. These workers now get minimum hour guarantees, and 10 instead of three days' notice when they have to work. Thousands of Metro store workers won similar improvements, which makes achieving work-life balance much easier, especially for parents or those working multiple jobs.

Another way unions are building a fair future is ensuring no worker ever has to choose between losing their job and staying in a violent relationship. As a result of unions' work, the Manitoba government passed legislation last year allowing a combination of paid and unpaid leave to victims of domestic violence seeking safety from abusers. Similar legislation is being considered in Ontario and Saskatchewan.

As our workplaces and communities change, unions are stepping up to meet the challenges in new ways. Unions are working with federal and provincial governments to win better provincewide and national standards for all workers, like the recent new restrictions on federal unpaid internships, a ban on asbestos and better pensions for everyone.

We're working with environmental and community allies to develop strategies for a just and fair transition for workers in industries affected by climate change. Together, we're building a vision of a clean growth economy that creates jobs, keeps communities thriving and reduces greenhouse gas emissions.

Together, we can do right by our children and grandchildren – we can turn the tide on precarious work and build a fair future for all Canadians. ■

Making work better for everyone. For Canada's unions, it's a labour of love.
Part-time, temporary, low-wage jobs are no way to live now, or build a future.
FAIRNESSWORKS.CA
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Visit fairnessworks.ca to learn more about how unions support *all* Canadians.

ENERGY

Green shift: Ensuring justice for Alberta's coal workers

With Alberta moving to phase out coal-fired electricity generation in the province, a coalition of workers who will be affected has created a blueprint for a "just transition" plan focused on jobs, affected workers and their communities.

The Coal Transition Coalition's report looks at past successes and failures of other jurisdictions and recommends the government establish an Alberta Economic Adjustment Agency to manage the transition.

"The workers who have dedicated their careers to keeping the lights on need to be supported as they face the closure of coal-fired electrical plants and associated mines," Coal Transition Coalition chair and Alberta Federation of Labour president Gil McGowan says. "This government is a global leader and innovator in climate change policies – it can also be a leader in creating a path forward for workers in industries affected by these policies."

The coalition represents more than 3,000 workers concerned about fairness in terms of pensions, severance, labour-retention strategies and other workforce issues, such as economic diversification.

Last November, the Government of Alberta promised $195 million to support the transition.

In a statement, Economic Development Minister Deron Bilous says he has seen first-hand how phasing out of coal creates uncertainty for workers and their families.

"We are working respectfully and collaboratively with labour leaders and their members, power companies, the federal government and local governments to provide stability and build an economy for the future in coal communities," the minister says.

Bilous says the province worked with the federal government to secure an exception that could allow affected coal plants to continue operating past federally mandated end-of-life dates, by converting to non-coal-fired generation, including with natural gas.

The Alberta government has agreed to provide payments to three electricity companies – TransAlta, Capital Power and ATCO – to compensate for past coal-related infrastructure investments and provide options for them "to transition to new electricity generating methods that would create long-term economic opportunities for the communities they operate in," says Bilous.

> "We feel strongly that 'just transition' policy has to involve more than ensuring employers fulfil their severance obligations. We need plans for retraining and redeployment of people to other jobs."
>
> **Gil McGowan,**
> Coal Transition Coalition chair and Alberta Federation of Labour president

In return, the companies have agreed to fulfil existing and future legal obligations to employees, including severance and pension obligations.

The province appointed an Advisory Panel on Coal Communities to consult with economic development organizations, workers, labour and local leaders about the community impact of the coal phase-out – and how to best support coal communities through this transition.

According to Bilous, the "especially valuable" reports of the Coal Transition Coalition will be included in the panel's feedback to government later this year.

"We are very encouraged by the steps the government has taken so far, but we still need to do more work," says McGowan. "We feel strongly that 'just transition' policy has to involve more than ensuring employers fulfil their severance obligations. We need plans for retraining and redeployment of people to other jobs." ■

United Steelworkers 1595 member Debbi Labrecque, who works at the Highvale Mine west of Edmonton, is one of 3,000 Alberta workers to be affected by the planned phase out of coal-fired electricity. SUPPLIED

POLICY

What is a just transition for workers?

The transition to a clean economy – one that runs on clean energy instead of fossil fuels – holds great promise, but as Canada moves towards that goal, one group of workers cannot be forgotten: those whose careers have been tied to the fossil-fuel economy being phased out.

A just transition involves industrial transformation that will eliminate dependency on fossil fuels and completely overhaul the energy sector. It also requires policy that creates new jobs designed to reduced greenhouse gas emissions – so-called "climate jobs." Finally, it means looking out for the workers from the fossil-fuel energy industry, finding and offering appropriate compensation and, if needed, skills training.

All three pillars – industrial transformation, development of clean energy jobs and fair transitioning of employees – are "interdependent and interrelated to the point where all three must work together – one without the others won't work," says Tony Clarke, chair of the Green Economy Network.

The last time the U.S. imposed duties on Canadian lumber, 15,000 jobs were lost within months. Canada's resource communities can't afford to take another hit like this.

Visit unifor.org/softwood and tell the federal government to stand up to the Americans and save Canadian forestry jobs.

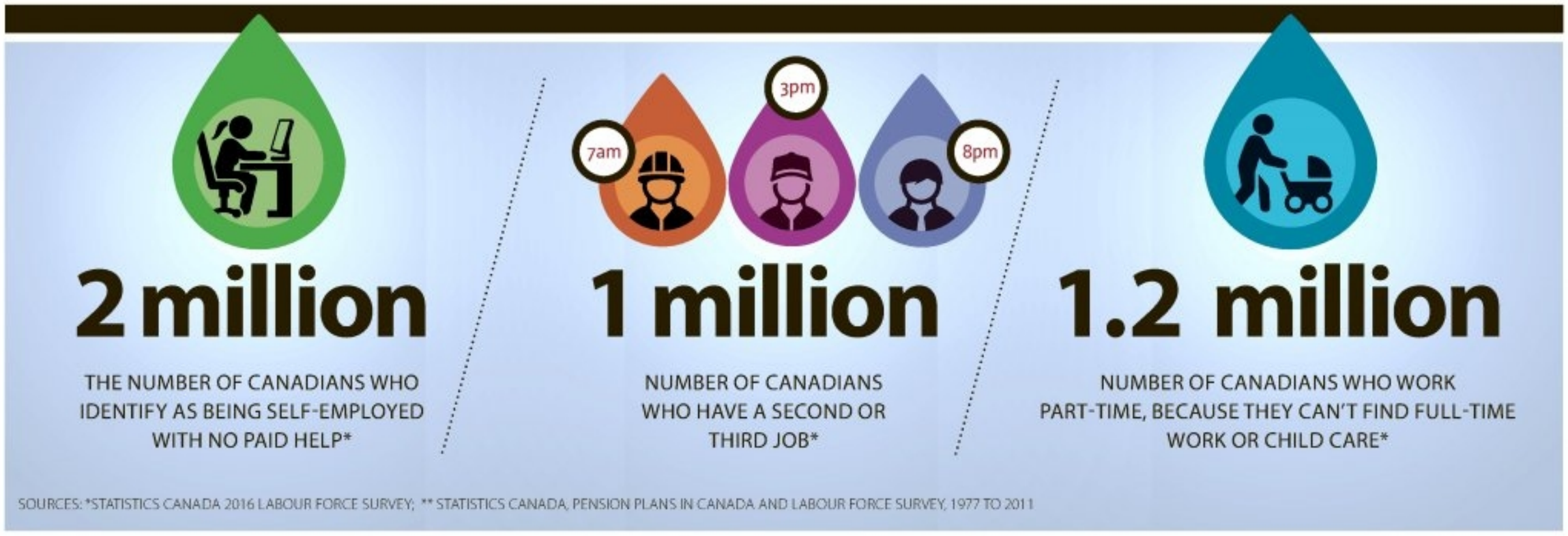
UNIFOR
theUnion | lesyndicat

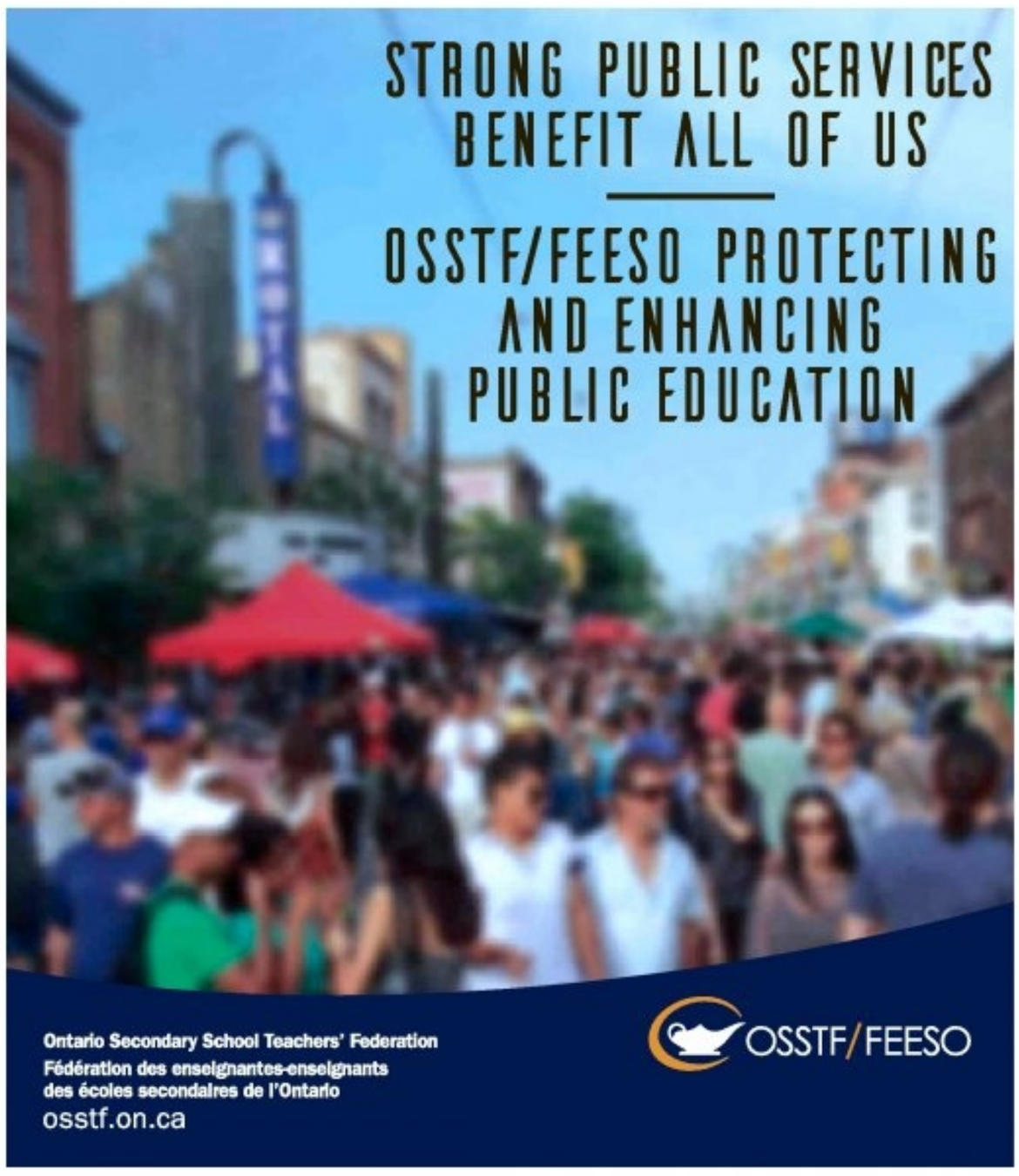
Visit fairnessworks.ca to learn more about how unions support *all* Canadians.

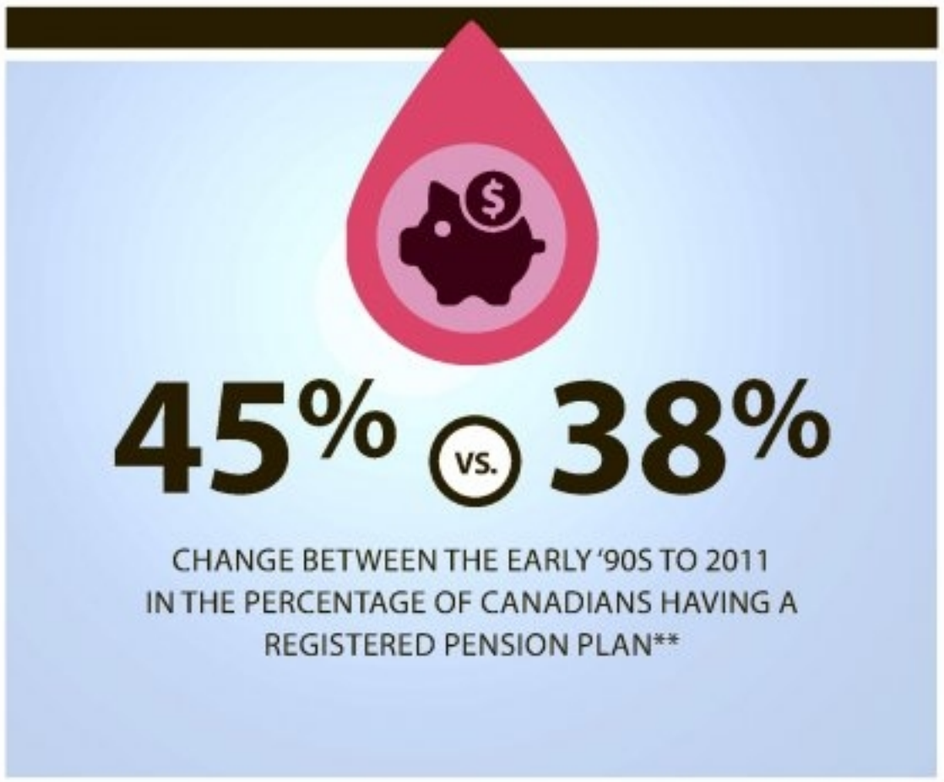
BY THE NUMBERS

Are you living on the edge?

Latest statistics portray the precarious lives of Canadians workers







45% vs. **38%**

CHANGE BETWEEN THE EARLY '90S TO 2011 IN THE PERCENTAGE OF CANADIANS HAVING A REGISTERED PENSION PLAN**

ANALYSIS

The "gig economy"

Are companies like Airbnb and Uber the harbingers of a utopian 'sharing economy' where everyone benefits? Or are they lowering job standards and raising housing prices? Some say it is time to take a closer look.

In Seattle, for example, Uber driver Takele Gobena invested $14,000 in a car after being assured he would earn at least $25 an hour driving passengers. But with commissions, fees and auto expenses, he often netted about $3 an hour. After failing to make even minimum wage, after working up to 14 hours each day for Uber and Lyft, Gobena was instrumental in unionizing Seattle's drivers. "We just want a voice," he says.

Lis Pimentel, president of UNITE HERE Local 75, which represents hospitality workers, is campaigning for Airbnb oversight and regulation in the Greater Toronto Area. She says about 6,000 homes are currently listed on Airbnb in Toronto. "That is similar to three Royal Yorks and a Sheridan Centre operating with no accountability of any kind," she said in an earlier interview.

Promise them the stars, and the educators who'll help get them there.

Over 78,000 teachers, occasional teachers, and education professionals are dedicated to defending and improving publicly funded, public education in Ontario. The Elementary Teachers' Federation of Ontario knows that we cannot do this alone so we have embarked on a series of community forums and consultations about our schools. Our union, working in solidarity with communities and advocacy groups, is committed to building better schools and a more just Ontario.

ETFO FEEO BUILDING BETTER SCHOOLS
www.buildingbetterschools.ca

Visit fairnessworks.ca to learn more about how unions support *all* Canadians.

EQUITY

Addressing the gender wage gap

It's 2017, but Canada's working women are still making less money than men, a disparity that runs through all sectors of employment.

Although women in Canada are legally guaranteed equal pay for equal work – meaning that men and women working in the same job get the same pay – wage discrimination exists in jobs of equal value in fields traditionally dominated by women.

"Some jobs traditionally performed by women are given less value," says Vicky Smallman, director of women's and human rights at the Canadian Labour Congress. "For example, truck drivers, who are often men, are paid more than child care workers, who are often women."

The situation is even worse for women who are indigenous, racialized or who have disabilities, she says.

Pay equity can combat that kind of wage discrimination by requiring employers to evaluate and compare jobs based on gender-neutral criteria, Smallman says. Ontario and Quebec have laws that require pay equity, but they only apply to sectors within provincial jurisdiction, and Ontario's only applies to public-sector workers.

"We want the same rules for federal jurisdictions, such as transportation and fisheries," Smallman says. "We want the federal government to table the proactive legislation suggested by its Pay Equity Task Force in 2004. They've promised to table it by 2018, but why not now?"

Unions, she says, are also negotiating with employers to address systemic discrimination.

"Just being part of a union helps narrow the wage gap," she says. "We negotiate fair wages for workers, but having legislation gives us tools to address systemic wage disparity." ■

The Canadian Labour Congress is asking the federal government to table the proactive legislation suggested by its Pay Equity Task Force in 2004, and bring pay equity to women. SUPPLIED

FAIRNESS

Seeking economic justice:

Pay equity, child care and domestic violence leave

PAY EQUITY: Despite the inclusion of 113 action items in the 2004 Pay Equity Task Force report, work traditionally performed by women continues to pay lower wages. The federal government says it will enact legislation by 2018. Why not 2017?

CHILD CARE: A national child care system would address sky-high fees and help parents, especially women, join the labour force. Let's get it done.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE LEAVE: A third of workers in Canada have experienced domestic violence. Paid leave helps victims escape without fear of job loss. Manitoba's government recently granted five days. The rest of Canada should follow suit.

Canada is stronger with quality public services

Members of the **Public Service Alliance of Canada** know first-hand the impact that years of cuts have had on the quality of Canada's public services.

We have urged the federal government to substantially restore and improve these services. We are encouraged by recent investments in food safety and transportation infrastructure, but much more is needed to restore the services Canadians rely on.

The federal government also requires a stable, permanent workforce with adequate resources in order to consistently deliver the high-quality public services Canadians deserve. Turning public services over to private companies to turn a profit and relying on workers in precarious jobs means lower quality services and higher costs to Canadians.

Our members are committed to

- keeping the food we eat and the medicines we use safe
- helping our veterans
- protecting our environment
- maintaining our national parks and historic sites
- supporting immigrants and refugees
- working to keep illegal drugs and guns out of our country
- making sure our seniors are receiving their CPP, Old Age Security and Guaranteed Income Supplement cheques

These are just a few of the public services our members provide. Supporting the people who deliver the vital services Canadians depend on is in everyone's interest.

In 2015, Canadians voted for the promise of real change. Stronger public services are part of the change they wanted.

A message from National President Robyn Benson, on behalf of 180,000 PSAC members.

www.psacunion.ca @psacnat facebook.com/psac.national

PSAC AFPC
Public Service Alliance of Canada
Alliance de la Fonction publique du Canada

OUR MEMBERS ARE WORKING FOR CANADIANS EVERY DAY

The **Public Service Alliance of Canada** represents more than 180,000 workers in every province and territory in Canada and in locations in other parts of the world.

PSAC continues to grow and evolve. Our varied membership includes not only federal public service workers but workers in post-secondary institutions, in territorial governments and northern cities and towns, and in services such as women's shelters, among others.

www.psacunion.ca @psacnat facebook.com/psac.national

PSAC AFPC

Public Service Alliance of Canada
Alliance de la Fonction publique du Canada

Visit fairnessworks.ca to learn more about how unions support *all* Canadians.

THE WESTRAY LAW

Holding employers accountable for safety

In the early morning of May 9, 1992, an explosion at the Westray Mine in Pictou County, Nova Scotia, killed 26 miners working underground.

It was one of the deadliest mining disasters in Canadian history. The United Steelworkers lobbied for years and in 2004 won changes to the Criminal Code – known as the Westray Law – that made it possible for police to lay criminal charges when corporate negligence results in a workplace death.

Despite this legal change, to date only four corporations have received a criminal conviction, and only one has been sentenced to prison.

"When criminal negligence results in a worker's death, it is a crime and should be treated that way," said USW Canada National Director Ken Neumann.

Christian Bruneau has experienced the flaws in the system first-hand. His son, Olivier Bruneau, was killed in a construction accident in Ottawa on March 23, 2016. Almost a year later, the Ministry of Labour has laid charges against Bruneau's employer, but a criminal negligence investigation by police has stalled.

"Every worker in the industry has the right to assume that he will go back home at the end of the day and look after his loved ones. This is a right," Christian Bruneau said to the crowd at the Ottawa Day of Mourning event last year.

> "Steelworkers campaigned long and hard to prevent these kinds of workplace tragedies, but if the law isn't enforced, employers can keep cutting corners and risking workers' lives."
>
> **Ken Neumann,**
> Canada National Director, United Steelworkers

"That right was compromised when the workplace was not safe. Olivier did not come back home on [March] 23rd, and the life of his family was forever devastated," he added.

"Steelworkers campaigned long and hard to prevent these kinds of workplace tragedies, but if the law isn't enforced, employers can keep cutting corners and risking workers' lives," Neumann said.

The Canadian Labour Congress and USW are calling on government to mark this year's 25th anniversary of the Westray explosion by acting now to ensure enforcement of the Westray Law.

In response to unions' call, the federal government has committed to working with the Canadian Labour Congress (CLC) and its members, with employers, and with provincial and territorial partners on the issue. This includes doing more to ensure labour inspectors and law enforcement officials are trained in provisions of the law, and sharing best practices across jurisdictions.

In an online petition at *Remember Westray.ca*, the CLC is calling on provinces and territories to work closely with the federal government on an urgent action plan to close the enforcement gaps.

"There are clear steps our governments can take to prevent more families going through what the Bruneaus are facing," CLC president Hassan Yussuff added. ■

Top: The Canadian Labour Congress and the United Steelworkers are calling on government to mark this year's 25th anniversary of the Westray tragedy by ensuring enforcement of the Westray Law, which can hold employers accountable for workplace deaths. Bottom: Wreaths mark the National Day of Mourning for Canadian workers killed or injured on the job, Ottawa, April 28, 2016. SUPPLIED

ISLAMOPHOBIA

Standing against racism and discrimination

Unions use collective bargaining to push for fair wages and benefits, as well as advance workers' human rights and protect against discrimination.

In a recent case, a food-service subcontractor at York University in Toronto denied a supervisory position to an employee because of her Muslim practices, including the wearing of a "hijab" head scarf.

The employee filed a human rights complaint, and her union, UNITE HERE Local 75, filed a grievance. She was then awarded a supervisor's position in the bargaining unit.

"We believe this positive outcome would not have occurred had she not stood up for herself and been supported by the union," says David Sanders, organizing director of Local 75. "This past fall and winter, her and other workers' experience with racism and Islamophobia helped lead the union and campus allies to forge a strong coalition going into collective bargaining and this spring's strike.

"The employees were also making poverty wages, and we negotiated a breakthrough agreement with a $15 per hour minimum wage for all workers," he says.

Concerned that the U.S. travel ban against primarily Muslim countries has further inflamed Islamophobia, the Canadian Labour Congress and the AFL-CIO in the U.S. jointly affirmed their commitment "to ensuring that our societies are welcoming and egalitarian, and that we pursue policies that respect the dignity and rights of all working people." ■

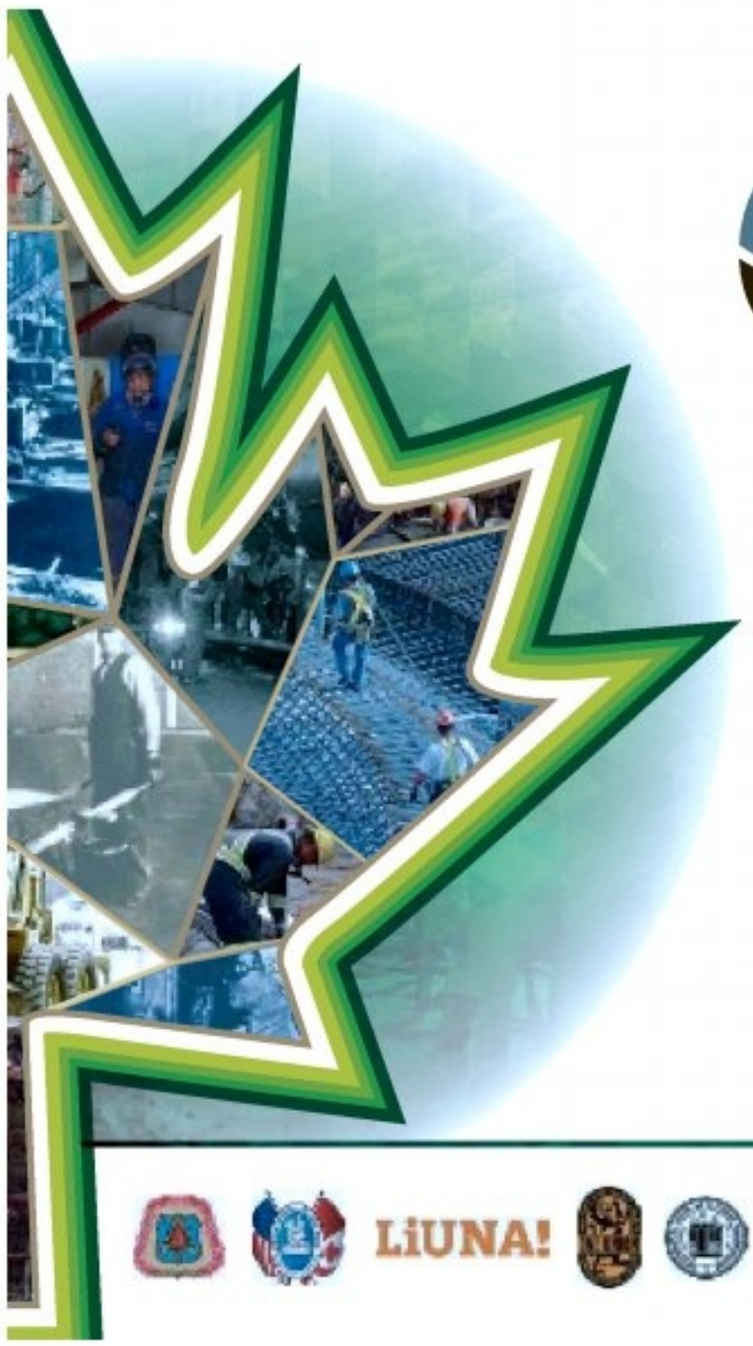
FILM

Virtual-reality film simulates refugee camp experience

Imagine living in a refugee camp in your home community. Canada's unions have offered Canadians a glimpse of that experience with a unique, immersive "Refugee Crisis" video. With a 360-degree view, the video simulates the harsh reality of being forced to flee your home as a refugee – as if it were happening in a Canadian town.
[facebook.com/fairnessworks.ca]

This online film is part of unions' ongoing work to support refugee resettlement efforts. "We felt it was important to help Canadians understand what people go through before they arrive here as refugees," says Marie Clarke Walker, executive vice president of the Canadian Labour Congress (CLC). "The Syrian refugees we are now taking in have lived in a war zone, which is a remote experience to most Canadians. When you can live in someone else's shoes, you develop more compassion and empathy," she adds.

Canada's unions also raised over $300,000 for refugee families, and the CLC developed a resource kit to encourage members to donate money and household items, and build friendships with refugees.



The Power Workers' Union: A Strong and Progressive Voice for Electricity Sector Workers

The Power Workers' Union (PWU) is the largest union in Ontario's electricity sector. We proudly represent the majority (over 16,000) of the highly skilled men and women who help produce and deliver our province's electricity.

The PWU is a Canadian Union that has helped set the standards for public and worker electrical safety. For more than seven decades, the PWU has worked hard to ensure that our employers are successful and sustainable and that our members receive their share of that success.

We negotiate the best in sustainable wages, benefits and working conditions for our members.

The Power Workers' Union provides a unique set of benefits for its members:

- Dedicated representatives, democratically elected
- Extensive training and skills development
- A highly skilled staff of support specialists
- A very successful hiring hall for peak and intermittent work
- Strong political outreach
- The Power Workers' Protection Plan provides coverage for legal expenses, identity theft and property title insurance to members free of charge

Take a look at the Power Workers' Union — We think you'll like what you see.

To learn more about us, please go to www.pwu.ca

FROM THE MEN AND WOMEN WHO HELP KEEP THE LIGHTS ON.

POWER WORKERS' UNION

metro SPORTS

Hip-hop artist Travis Scott has designed the Rockets' T-shirt giveaway for Game 6 against the Spurs emblazoned with the team slogan "Run As One"

Sens still working on an ending

2017 NHL PLAYOFFS
INTO THE EASTERN FINAL

GM Dorion's Cinderella story continues

Exactly one year before the Ottawa Senators qualified for their first Eastern Conference final in a decade, general manager Pierre Dorion introduced Guy Boucher as the new head coach and made a surprise declaration along the way.

"One day I hope to write a book: Keys to winning in the NHL," said Dorion on May 9, 2016. "Talent is one. Two is very good goaltending. And the third, and one of the most important is great coaching. I now feel we have all those elements in place."

Dorion may just have to write that storybook on the 2016-17 season — the conclusion of which is still to be determined following Ottawa's first entry into the conference final since 2007.

Almost everything has broken right for the Senators this year, from awesome displays of talent by Erik Karlsson to terrific goaltending to Boucher's designs taking shape. Even beyond that, there are depth additions and the surprising late season return of Clarke MacArthur.

"This is the year we've got to put our foot forward," MacArthur said on the first day of training camp. "I know I get used to saying that every year, but this is the year — damn it!"

Ottawa is not the most talented team in the conference or even close to it, but they have perhaps the most talented player in Karlsson.

> **I'm glad he's on my team.**
> Guy Boucher on captain Erik Karlsson who had a goal and an assist in Tuesday's 4-2 win in Manhattan.

The NHL has seen only 16 seasons of 70-plus points from a defenceman over the last 20 years and Karlsson has four of them. And the 26-year-old's stock has risen even higher this season.

"With what he's done this year, the way he's done it, I can't imagine better," Boucher said in mid-March.

Karlsson most notably emerged as the second-best shot blocker in the NHL, a telling embrace of Boucher's "extremely defensive" ways. But equally helpful to Ottawa's cause was Karlsson's increased role and tremendous effect on the penalty kill, which rose from 29th last year to 22nd this year.

He was brilliant through the first two playoff rounds, racking up 13 points in 12 games.

Boucher was the first of nine candidates interviewed by Dorion, who replaced Bryan Murray as GM after last season.

Dorion was impressed with Boucher's passion and potential to improve the club's woeful defence.

Boucher tried and seemed to succeed in taking on a less-is-more approach with Ottawa.

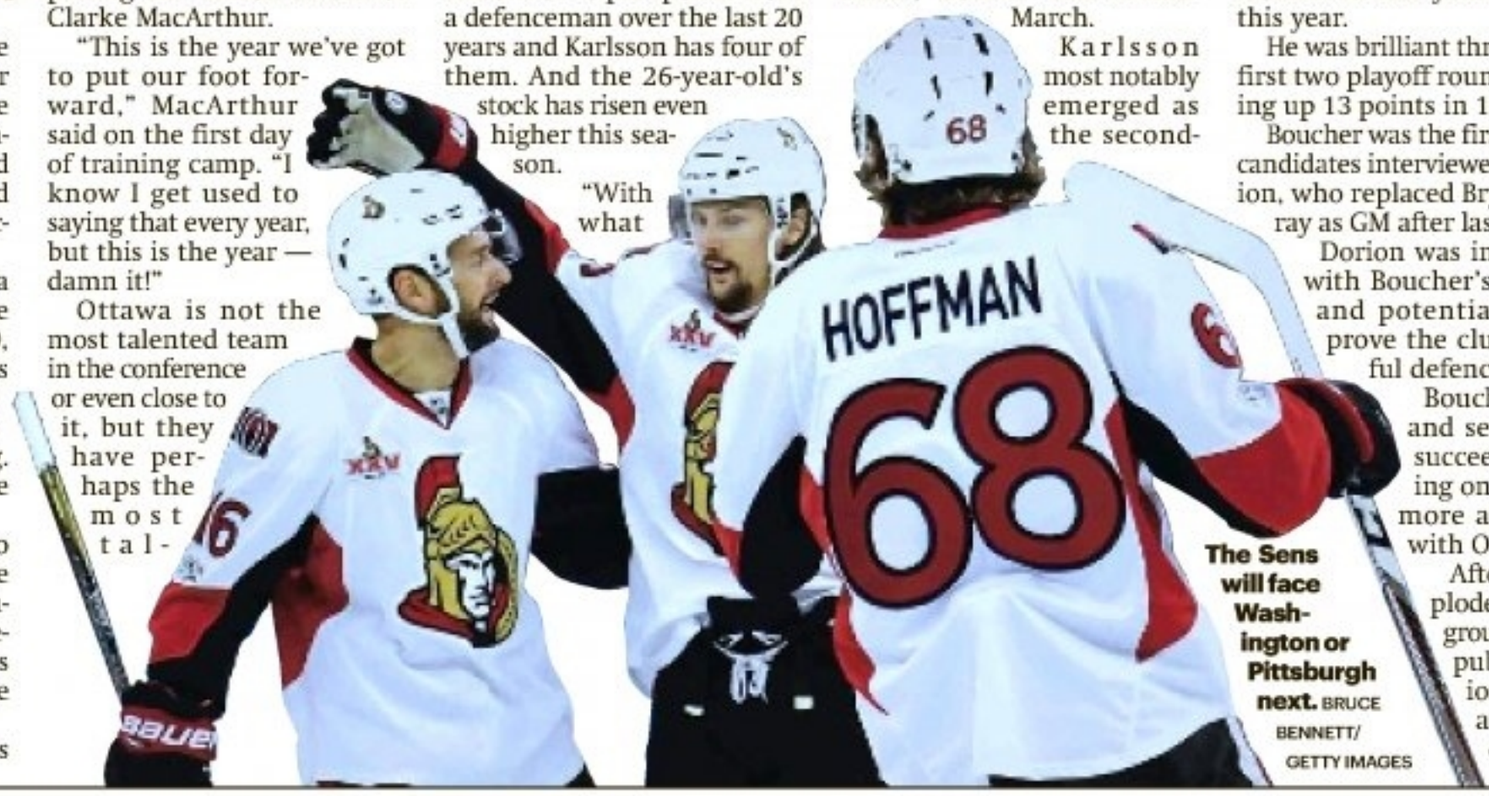
After he exploded on the group in very public fashion during a mid-December practice — bellowing at players to do their jobs — Boucher aimed to lay off his players by speaking less and delegating responsibility to his assistants.

"People ask me what I'm doing differently (from) Tampa. On the ice: nothing," Boucher said at one point. "It's not about hockey."

The day before the regular season began in mid-October, Dorion met with his team for what he said would be the only time. He emerged optimistic (and, it turns out, prescient) about the group's fortunes.

"We feel that we're a playoff team," said Dorion. "We hope we can surprise people once we get in the playoffs."

THE CANADIAN PRESS



The Sens will face Washington or Pittsburgh next. BRUCE BENNETT/ GETTY IMAGES

31

The Sens as a whole made solid leaps as a defensive entity under Guy Boucher, slicing off 31 goals and nearly three shots per game during the regular season.

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

Real Madrid finishes city rival Atletico

Defending champion Real Madrid withstood an early onslaught by Atletico Madrid to reach a third Champions League final in four years despite a 2-1 loss to its city rival on Wednesday.

Atletico, which trailed 3-0 after the first leg, scored twice in the first 16 minutes at the Vicente Calderon Stadium to move within a goal of sending the semifinal second-leg into an extra time. But Francisco (Isco) Alarcon netted a crucial away goal for Real Madrid before halftime to secure a 4-2 victory on aggregate and a spot in the final against Juventus on June 3 in Cardiff.

Cristiano Ronaldo
GETTY IMAGES

Madrid will try to become the first team to win back-to-back titles since the competition's new format was created in 1992.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

IN BRIEF

Arsenal creeps closer to top-4 European positions

Arsenal kept alive its ambitions of qualifying for next season's Champions League by beating Southampton 2-0 in the Premier League thanks to second-half goals by Alexis Sanchez and Olivier Giroud on Wednesday.

Arsenal is three points behind fourth-place Manchester City, and four points behind third-place Liverpool with a game in hand. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Jays' Morales day to day

Toronto Blue Jays slugger Kendrys Morales will be re-evaluated later this week after suffering a hamstring strain in Tuesday's loss to the Cleveland Indians.

Morales left the game after experiencing discomfort in his left leg when he grounded out in the fourth inning.

The 33-year-old leads the Jays with six home runs and 20 RBIs this season. He has a .244 batting average and a .727 OPS (on-base plus slugging). THE CANADIAN PRESS

CFL

Redblacks say 6K Grey Cup seats left

The Ottawa Redblacks say tickets for the 2017 Grey Cup are moving at a brisk pace, which is welcome news for the CFL after organizers of the 2016 league championship in Toronto struggled to fill the stands.

The Redblacks said in a release Wednesday that fewer than 6,000 tickets remain for the 105th Grey Cup, which will be held Nov. 26 at TD Place.

The Redblacks' home stadium will be expanded from 24,000 seats to approximately 35,000 to accommodate the game.

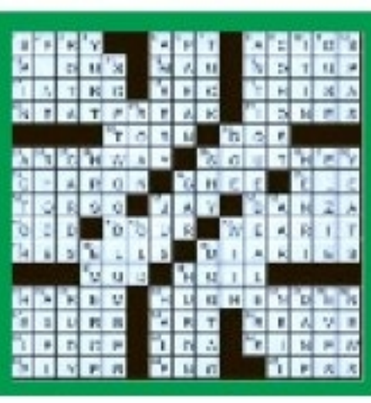
Tickets are currently only available to season-ticket holders and fans that purchase a five-game "Home Opener Ticket Pack." The remaining Grey Cup tickets will be released on a first-come, first-serve basis on June 8.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

YESTERDAY'S ANSWERS

Your daily crossword and Sudoku answers from the play page.

for more fun and games go to metronews.ca/games



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4	8	6	3	2	1	5	7	9
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2	3	4	6	5	7	8	9	1
5	9	8	1	4	2	7	3	6
9	7	5	2	1	4	6	8	3
8	1	3	9	7	6	2	4	5
6	4	2	5	8	3	9	1	7

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MAKE IT TONIGHT

Gingery Grilled Salmon and Zucchini

PHOTO: MAYA VISNYEI

Ceri Marsh & Laura Keogh
For Metro Canada

Get your brain food with this salmon dish that is the perfect meal after a busy day when your mind is working at half capacity but dinner still needs to be made.

Ready in 55 minutes
Prep time: 25
Cook time: 35
Serves: 4

Ingredients
- 3 filets of salmon
- 2 or 3 small zucchinis
- 1 tsp grated ginger
- ¼ cup soy sauce
- 2 Tbsp rice wine vinegar
- 1 Tbsp sesame oil

Directions

1. Soak wooden skewers in water for at least 20 minutes. Whisk together the ginger, soy, vinegar and sesame. Place salmon filets in the marinade for 20 minutes

2. Remove the salmon from the marinade and cut the filets into chunks – maybe 1 x 2 inches – and set aside.

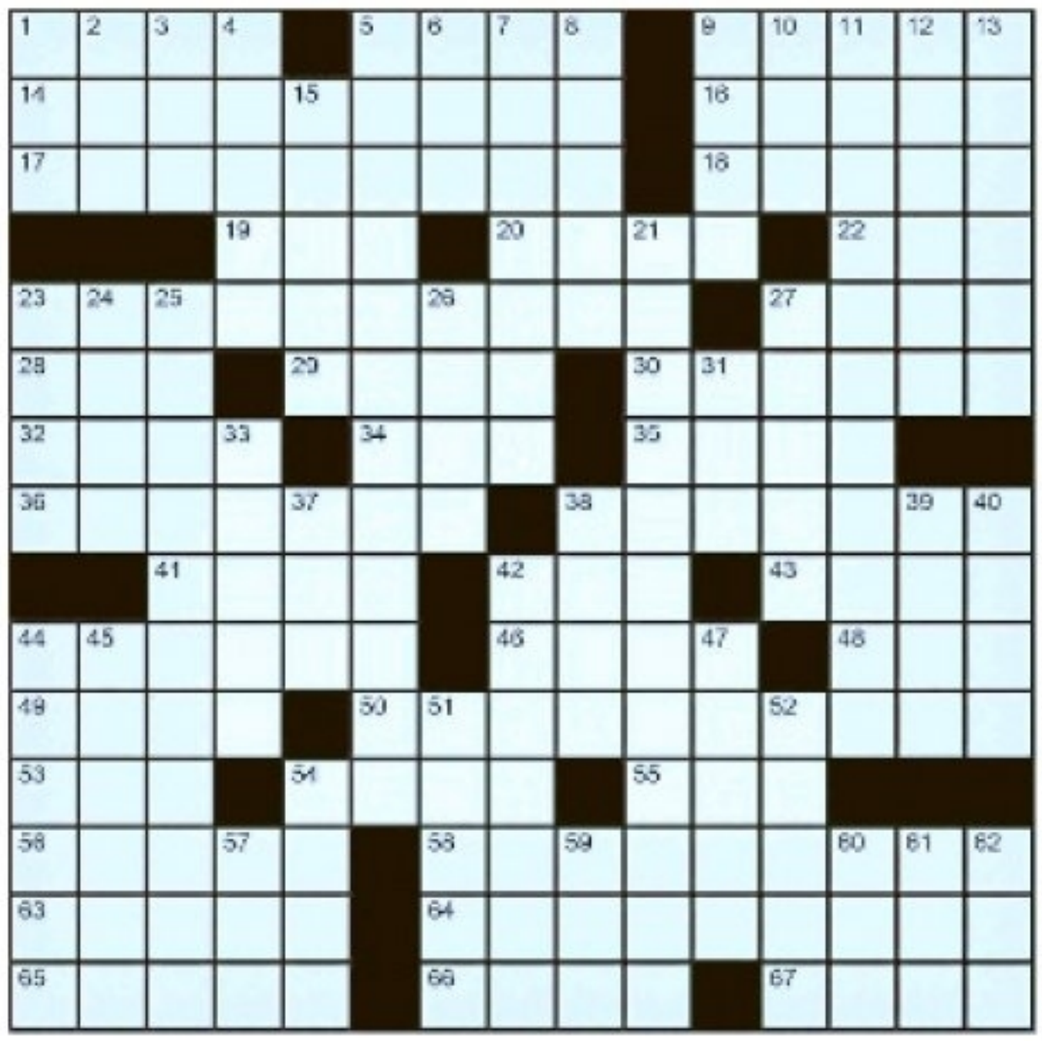
3. Slice the zucchini into rings and toss in the marinade quickly. Thread the fish and veggies onto the wooden skewers.

4. Preheat your grill or grill pan to medium high and wipe the grill with oil. Place the skewers over the heat and give each side about three minutes before turning.

FOR MORE MEAL IDEAS, VISIT SWEETPOTATOCHRONICLES.COM

CROSSWORD Canada Across and Down

BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN



ACROSS
1. Org. on Discovery Channel's "Mayday"
5. Seasonal bugs
9. Chef Mr. Lee
14. 1879 novel by Victorian writer George Meredith: 2 wds.
16. Dried plum
17. Duck-billed Late Cretaceous herbivore that once roamed #25-Down
18. Songbird sort
19. Mr. Begley Jr.'s
20. Oohs' pals
22. Cacharel perfume
23. "You may be dismissed now.": 3 wds.
27. Popeye's sweetie Olive, and others
28. Mr. Harrison
29. Airline to Israel: 2 wds.
30. The Clash's "Rock the _"
32. "How _ Your Mother"
34. 1997 Sugar Ray chart-topper
35. "2001: A Space Odyssey" (1968) star Mr. Dullea
36. Shipping sea sludge, say: 2 wds.
38. Implore
41. Yesterday: French
42. Stallion's snack
43. One-of-a-kind
44. 'Nothing' in Rome
46. Dada artist Jean, and family
48. Mary _ (Cosmetics company)
49. '80s hit: "In _ _ Country"
50. Telethons, when carried by multiple networks
53. Blondie singer Ms. Harry, to pals
54. Bygone Ford cars
55. Swiss river
56. Ms. Ryan of "The Beverly Hillbillies"
58. Super-small
63. De _ (Movie star Robert, and surnamesakes)
64. Required
65. High wave
66. Vexed vocalization!
67. Formerly

DOWN
1. Utmost
2. Jennifer Lopez's 'J to _ L-O!'
3. But, Latin-style
4. Prince's "Raspberry _"
5. #25-Down's paleobotany paradise: 2 wds.
6. _ Fail (Irish coronation stone)
7. Most times
8. Valued violin [abbr.]
9. Summertime lotion nos.
10. William Tell's canton
11. Cloudy day's moments of respite: 2 wds.
12. 7UP 'The _'
13. Bring up those same old complaints
15. 'In _ _ Trust'
21. Jet or Oiler: 2 wds.
23. Deuce-ace
24. Prefix to 'sphere'
25. High Arctic island located in Nunavut: 2 wds.
26. Composer Mr. Schifrin
27. Wickerwork material
31. Old Rome bronze money
33. Connecting/securing
37. Receive
38. Alberta: _ _ Ranch National Historic Site of Canada
39. Suffix with 'Pluto' (Rich ruler)
40. Canadian luggage brand
42. Cage's wheel-runner
44. Chuck Berry title song lady
45. Airline of Spain
47. Strikebreakers, in slang
51. Picking from a police lineup
52. Come about
54. _-majeste (High treason)
57. And not
59. PC monitor
60. Sailor, Jack-_
61. Dads to Jr.s
62. St. John's International Airport code

IT'S ALL IN THE STARS Your daily horoscope by Francis Drake

Aries March 21 - April 20
Communicating with others, especially with siblings and relatives, is difficult today because you're not sure what you should say. When in doubt, say nothing.

Taurus April 21 - May 21
This is a poor day to make important financial decisions, because your information might not be correct. It's possible that someone is deceiving you. Be careful.

Gemini May 22 - June 21
You feel tired and lethargic today. Don't worry, because we all have days like this. Don't be hard on yourself or judgmental of others.

Cancer June 22 - July 23
Something going on behind the scenes worries you today. The strange thing is that you might not even know what it is. Alot of people feel this way. No worries.

Leo July 24 - Aug. 23
You will find it difficult to assert yourself in a group situation today. Don't worry about this. It's probably best to sit back and see which way the wind blows. Play it safe.

Virgo Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
This is not a good day to be aggressive when dealing with bosses, parents and VIPs. There's too much confusion. Plus, at heart, you do not feel fully confident. Sit this one out.

Libra Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
Don't get ensnared in arguments about religion and politics today. You might not be sure how to respond or what to endorse. Take it easy.

Scorpio Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
Disputes about shared property, inheritances and anything that you own jointly with others will be confusing today. You won't properly defend your best interests. Avoid these discussions.

Sagittarius Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
Discussions with friends and partners are discouraging today. That's because you feel like you don't know what's really going on. Don't worry — you are not alone.

Capricorn Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
Do not throw your weight around at work today — there's too much confusion, and people are unsure of what to do and how to do it. Sit back and go with the flow.

Aquarius Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
This is a classic day for confusion when dealing with romantic partners. Remember: Unexpressed expectations almost always lead to disappointment.

Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20
Be patient with and tolerant of family members today, because misunderstandings will be rife. You might feel let down by others. It's very likely that they feel the same way.

CONCEPTIS SUDOKU by Dave Green

Every row, column and box contains 1-9

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